southern VOICE

Directorial debuts

Kent Gash is among gay thespians who helm city's top theaters.

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Hate law fails first court test

Critics say 3-year-old Georgia law 'watered down'

GOP senator drops opposition to federal hate crime law, Page 19

A Fulton County jury did not convict **Aaron Price** (top, right) on a hate crime charge during a trial earlier this month, the first court test of the state's bias law. Sen. **Vincent Fort** (D-Atlanta), the author of the legislation, said the failure to win a conviction, though Price was found guilty on other charges, came as a surprise.

The law recently withstood a legal challenge by attorneys for **Christopher Botts**, one of three white suspects charged with assaulting two black men in Little Five Points.

Story, Page 3

STOP AIDS: CDC Director **Julie Gerberding** threatens AIDS programs that 'encourage sex'. **Page 16**

MARRIAGE BLISS: Canada moves to offer gay marriage nationwide. **Page 13**

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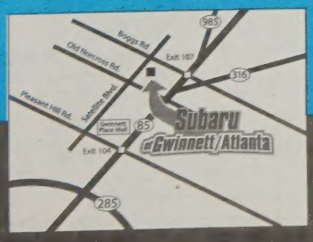

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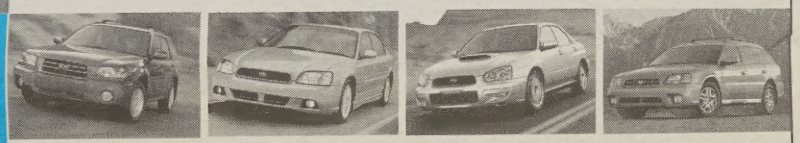

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local news

Hate law off to shaky start

After first trial ends in acquittal on bias charges, supporters stand by statute

By RYAN LEE

A young man leaves a dormitory bathroom after he suspects a classmate makes an "unwanted sexually suggestive gesture." He grabs a wooden baseball bat from his bedroom closet, returns to the bathroom and beats the fellow student — fracturing his skull, chipping four of his teeth and causing a life-threatening blood clot to develop on his brain.

A jury finds that the perpetrator is guilty of aggravated assault and aggravated battery, but acquits him on a charge that anti-gay sentiments motivated the attack.

"What the jury brought back, only a jury in Georgia could bring that back," said Kevin Bynes, referring to a Fulton County jury's June 11 decision to acquit Aaron Price of hate crime charges in the attack on fellow Morehouse College student Gregory Love.

"I don't understand how a jury could look at the evidence and decide it's not a hate crime," said Bynes, a member of African Americans for Safe Space Everywhere For All, an ad hoc group of Atlanta University Center students and activists formed in the wake of attack last November.

The charges against Price marked the first time a case using Georgia's three-year old hate crime law reached a jury trial. A case involving alleged racial bias remains pending, and the law was discussed in relation to a separate gay-related case in 2001.

The failure to win a conviction in the hate law's first official test also surprised state Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta), co-sponsor of Georgia's hate crime bill in 2000, and Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide gay rights group.

All three were disappointed Price was not convicted of a hate crime, but each said that they were satisfied with the two 10-year sentences, to run concurrently, that Fulton Superior Court Judge Jerry Baxter issued Price on the assault and battery convictions.

"I don't believe the judge was unaffected by the hate that was involved with this crime," Fort said. "Regardless of whether the hate crime determination was made, he received more time than he would have otherwise."

But opponents of hate crimes laws said the strong sentence Price received, even without a conviction on the bias charges, prove the special statute unnecessary.

Daniel Dodson, public affairs director for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said judges already have discretion during the sentencing process, so they can determine if a crime was motivated by hate and adjust sentences accordingly.

"It's certainly a sympathetic argument, but [hate crime laws] overcomplicate the criminal justice system," Dodson said. "It's a discrimination that doesn't need to be there."

Aaron Price received two 10-year sentences for assaulting fellow Morehouse College student Gregory Love, even though the jury failed to convict him on hate crimes charges. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

Law doesn't specify protected groups

Forty-one states have hate crimes laws, and 21 of those include sexual orientation as a protected category, according to Jack Levin, a professor at Northeastern University in Boston and director of the Brudnick Center on Violence.

Georgia's hate crimes law is uncommon in that it lists no specific categories. Instead, it enhances the penalty for crimes committed "because of the defendant's bias or prejudice against a group."

GOP senator drops opposition to federal hate crime law, Page 19

"In most states the protected categories are specified. It's not left open-ended," said Levin, who has written several books supporting hate crimes legislation. "It sounds to me like that was a politically motivated move. Georgia legislators would've been committing political suicide if they included sexual orientation in the bill."

When Georgia's hate crime bill, sponsored by Fort, passed the state Senate by a single vote in 2000, it included specific categories, one of which was sexual orientation. But it was clear the bill would not be able to overcome conservative objections in the House unless sexual orientation was removed as a protected category.

Unwilling to abandon sexual orientation alone, supporters of the hate crimes bill compromised by ditching all categories in favor of the "bias and prejudice" clause.

"It was a difficult, difficult two-year battle to get the bill passed," Fort said. "I think the law is sufficient to do what it's supposed to do."

Georgia Equality's Thornell agreed.

"I think the language used was the best language we had at that time for the issue we were trying to address," he said.

Levin said he understands the difficulty of getting such legislation passed in a conservative political climate, but believes the resulting law is too watered down.

"I think it's more vulnerable because just about any category could be included, including short people, fat people and ugly people," Levin said. "Because the Georgia law fails to specify the categories, it may be seen [by jurors] as some umbrella statute that trivializes the point of the legislation; I think it dilutes the effort."

Penalty enhancement raises questions

Another unusual quirk to the Georgia law is that although a defendant's sentence can be enhanced up to five years with a hate crime conviction, the total sentence cannot exceed the maximum penalty for the crime committed.

For example, once Price was convicted of aggravated assault and aggravated battery, he could have received a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. Had he also been convicted of the hate crime, the maximum penalty he could have received was still 40 years in prison.

"Then what would be the point of having a hate crimes law?" asked Dodson, from the Washington D.C.-based NACDL. "That doesn't even make sense; it basically sounds like it makes more work for lawyers when really there is no reason to."

Fort vehemently disagreed.

"To imply that it doesn't enhance the penalty is not correct," he said. "In a case such as this, it can be used to enhance the penalty to the maximum, beyond the normal punishment for that crime.

"When we were doing the legislation, we realized perpetrators would be more likely to plea bargain for more severe punishment in order to avoid the hate crime enhancement," Fort said.

Bynes, Fort and Thornell all agreed that despite Price being acquitted of hate crime charges, his 10-year concurrent sentences far exceeded the regular amount of prison time given to first-time offenders. Before announcing his sentence, Baxter strongly rebuked Price for his actions and his lack of remorse.

"My understanding of hate crimes legislation is that it was put in place so we didn't see someone getting convicted of aggravated battery and getting an easy sentence," Bynes said. "I think the judge did his job in sentencing, and Aaron Price did not get off scot-free."

Baxter enacting a stiffer penalty for Price proves that judges have the ability to enhance penalties when hatred is present in a crime, Dodson said.

"Judges are pretty good at assessing how much meanness is involved, they can determine the mindset during sentencing," Dodson said. "It really didn't matter that the hate crimes legislation was there [during the Price trial] because the system worked it out."

Mind games

One of the most difficult aspects of prosecuting a hate crime is trying to get inside the mind of defendants. Unlike in regular cases, prosecutors in hate crime trials have to prove the motive for the crime, said Holly Hughes,

Please see HATE LAW on Page 8

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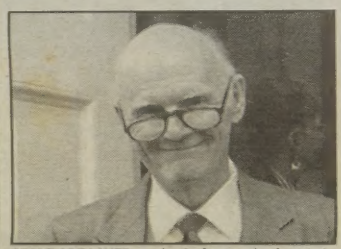
ROCKING ROLES: DJ's **Ben Cheaves** and **Bill Overall** give Atlanta gays alternative house music on Wednesday nights.
Nightlife, Page 59



PRIDE PREACHER: Dr. **Louie Crew**, who founded a gay Episcopal group, delivers the sermon at the upcoming Pride Eucharist.
Spirituality, Page 31

Corrections

In the June 13 issue of Southern Voice, a news story on the Canadian marriage ruling ("Ontario court overturns gay marriage ban") includes a quotation attributed to activist Evan Wolfson on the issue of "comity," or the acceptance of Canadian marriages in the U.S. In fact, that language paraphrased Wolfson's actual statement on the topic. In addition, the article failed to identify Rex Wockner as the freelance journalist who obtained that interview. Southern Voice regrets the errors.

Also in the June 13 issue, a news story about an assault trial ("Price convicted in campus beating") includes two photo captions that refer to Kellie Hicks, an assistant district attorney in Fulton County. Her correct name is Kellie Hill. Southern Voice regrets the error.

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local news

Bowers to head judicial panel

Perdue appoints former attorney general who defended sodomy law, fired lesbian

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Former Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers, who defended the state's sodomy law to the U.S. Supreme Court and sparked another high-profile legal battle when he withdrew a job offer from a lesbian attorney, will serve as chair of a new judicial nominating committee appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue.

"The question is whether I can be fair, and I can," Bowers, now an attorney with the Atlanta firm Meadows, Ichter & Trigg, told Southern Voice. "A person's sexual preference can't be a factor. No inquiry will be made."

Perdue announced the formation of the judicial nominating commission on June 11, which will make nominations to fill vacancies in the Georgia Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, superior and state courts, according to a press release.

Asked at a press conference last week whether appointing Bowers to head the commission will send a negative message to gay Georgians, Perdue said, "of course it won't."

"Mike Bowers has a long record of public service to Georgia," Perdue added. "Frankly I asked him to do it because as a state employee he would no longer be able to sue the state and I thought that would save us some money."

But Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide nonpartisan gay group, criticized Perdue's portrayal of Bowers.

"Perdue's quote in favor of Bowers is comedy," he said. "He must have decided to rewrite the definition of integrity to make it whatever he wanted it to be."

Yet Thornell said the appointment "wasn't surprising."

"Bowers was a close advisor to Sonny during the campaign," Thornell said. "We knew he was going to land somewhere, we just hope he doesn't go from the committee to the Georgia Supreme Court."

Bowers said he has no intention of using the appointment as a stepping stone to returning to public office.

"I took the appointment because the governor asked me to," he said, adding that he is "done with politics."

"I'm like Sherman: if nominated I will not run, if elected I will run to Mexico," Bowers said.

Gays still have reason to worry about the appointment, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, a national gay advocacy group.

"Mike Bowers represents the antithesis of equal treatment when it comes to the gay and lesbian community," said Seth Kilbourn, the HRC's national field director.

The Georgia chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group, sees no problem with the appointment, according to Marc Yeager, the group's president.

"The ultimate decision on who receives a judicial appointment still lies with Gov. Perdue and not with a committee member," Yeager said. "I believe that Gov. Perdue still seeks to appoint judges who understand we are a diverse state and that judgements should be made on legal precedent and objective findings, not personal ideology."

Former Attorney General **Michael Bowers**, appointed to lead the state's new judicial nominating commission, said 'a person's sexual preference can't be a factor' in the body's decisions. (Photo by AP)

Bowers' history

Bowers served as Georgia's attorney general from 1981 to 1997, when he resigned to launch his ultimately unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for governor.

In June 1997, Bowers admitted a long-term extramarital affair — in violation of state laws against adultery and fornication — less than a week after winning an appeals court decision in a federal lawsuit brought against him by Robin Shahar, a lesbian attorney.

Bowers offered Shahar a job with the attorney general's office in 1991 and revoked the offer after learning of her plans to be united with her female partner in a private Jewish religious ceremony.

Shahar declined comment on Bowers' appointment to the judicial commission.

A trial court dismissed Shahar's initial suit against Bowers in 1991. Her appeals wound through the court system until January 1998, when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear her case.

But another gay-related case involving Bowers did reach the nation's highest court.

During his tenure as attorney general, Bowers defended the state's sodomy law in the case of Michael Hardwick, a gay man arrested in his own home. In a landmark 1986 ruling, the Supreme Court found in Bowers v. Hardwick that there is no "fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy."

Bowers — who reportedly once said his only regret is that his name did not appear second in the case, "because then it wouldn't look like I'm the homosexual" — said last week he is "used to being associated" with the sodomy case.

"I get that a lot. It's part of having participated in controversial cases in a lightening rod type of job," he said.

Yet Bowers said he gives little thought to the case now, and he hasn't followed the case of Lawrence v. Texas, a challenge to that state's sodomy law that is expected to be decided by the Supreme Court this month.

"Legally, I think [the decision in Bowers v. Hardwick] was absolutely correct," Bowers said. "I don't talk about my personal observations in terms of how I carry out my legal duties. My personal beliefs are totally irrelevant."

More appointments

The new judicial nomination commission consists of 18 members, all appointed by the governor. In addition to Bowers, the commission includes former state Rep. Dan Ponder, a Republican. Ponder recently won the 2003 Profile in Courage Award for his speech in support of hate-crime legislation before the Georgia General Assembly in 2000.

At a press conference June 12, Perdue also appointed five new department heads. Former Republican state Rep. Mike Beatty, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for lieutenant governor in 2002, was named commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.

"A lot of our social ills are because we have a breakdown in the traditional family. One man, one woman, that's what makes this country strong," Beatty told Southern Voice during a Christian Coalition candidate forum last year.

Beatty could not be reached for comment this week.

Absent from Perdue's announcements last week was a decision about a commissioner for the Georgia Department of Human Resources, a slot currently held by former Democratic state Rep. Jim Martin, is known for his support of HIV and gay rights issues.

"We already have a DHR commissioner," Perdue said when asked about Martin's post. "It's in the appointment process."

Perdue offered no time frame for further appointments.

Gov. Sonny Perdue recently appointed **Mike Beatty**, a former Republican lawmaker as commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. In his failed 2002 campaign for lieutenant governor, Beatty said a family of 'one man, one woman makes the country strong.' (Photo by AP)

MORE INFO

Gov. Sonny Perdue
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-1776
www.gov.state.ga.us

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local news

Gay center 'moves forward' despite board resignations

Health clinic set to reopen June 23 as facility settles in after relocation

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Despite several setbacks, including the separate resignations of its executive director and four board members, officials with the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center remain optimistic it will improve. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Despite a leadership struggle and a shakeup in its board of directors, Atlanta's gay and lesbian community center ranks a 6.5 on a scale of one to 10, its board chair said.

Lolethia Chapman, a management consultant who became chair of the Center's board about two months ago, came under sharp criticism last month when four of the board's nine members resigned citing conflicts with her.

Despite the defections, the Center is "moving forward and changing for the better," Chapman said in a recent interview.

"Right now, I think on a scale of 1 to 10 in the role we play in the community, we're a 6.5. But we're working hard on becoming a 10," she said.

Board vice chair Victor A. Barnes and members Darlene Hudson, Robert Vickers and Greg Amos cited the "autocratic nature" of Chapman in their stinging May 30 resignation letter.

The directors who resigned also criticized the "inappropriate influence" of Center manager Melvin Stringer, who was appointed to the role when former Executive Director Craig Washington resigned in March. They also said they were excluded from decision making processes at the Center.

"It has always been our intent ... to contribute to building a diverse and vibrant 'community' center," Vickers said. "[But] decisions are made without the input of the community nor with the input of all board members except in the most cursory fashion."

Stringer did not respond to interview requests, while Chapman said the criticism surprised her.

"As a management consultant, I did not expect to be raked over the coals about my management style," Chapman said.

In the wake of the resignations — which left Chapman, board vice chair Don Smith, Dana Owings, Marta Shen and Carlos Caldaron — decision-making authority is being decentralized from the board to six different committees, several of which are seeking community members as chairs, Chapman said.

Two community members were recently appointed as committee chairs, Chapman said.

Chapman also denied allegations that surfaced during the resignations that Smith, who has been involved with the Center as a volunteer and donor since 1983, was still making decisions for the facility.

In February, the Center left its rental space at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., to set up a permanent residence at a $460,000 house at 170 11th St. in Midtown. At the time, leaders said the purchase was financed by an anonymous donor.

Smith later acknowledged purchasing the property. He has invested an additional $50,000 in miscellaneous expenses this year, and between $15,000 and $20,000 a year in donations each year before that, he said.

"Anyone who knows Lolethia M. Chapman will tell you I'm nobody's puppet, I do have independent thought," Chapman said. "I do respect Don Smith to the utmost, but it is not me and it is not Don who makes decisions about the center. It is the board and the committees."

The Center's move also temporarily shuttered its health clinic, which is in part operated through funding from Fulton County, which provides $45,000 a year for an executive director and a part time nurse.

The clinic, which offers STD and HIV testing and Hepatitis A and B vaccines, is scheduled to open again on June 23. The facility's nurse, Bill King, resigned in January, and a replacement has been hired, Chapman said.

In addition to the clinic, the Center offers four support groups: a "coming out" group, a youth group, a men's group and a "20-something" group, according to Chapman. The board plans to add a chemical-recovery group and a group for black lesbians this summer, she said.

The board members who resigned "wish the Center the best," but "are not hopeful," according to Hudson.

"For the past couple years, attempts have been made ... to resurrect the Center," she said. "As long as it remains a personal 'vice' of the chair and a select group of self-determined board members, we came to the conclusion that it cannot adequately address the needs of the community it seeks to serve."

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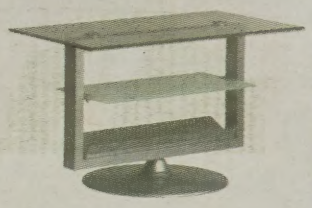

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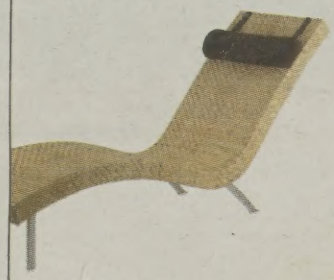

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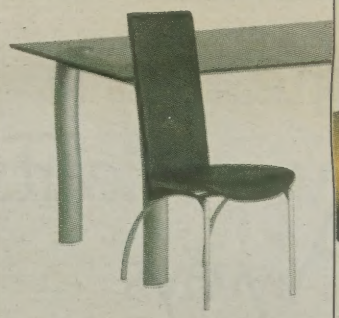

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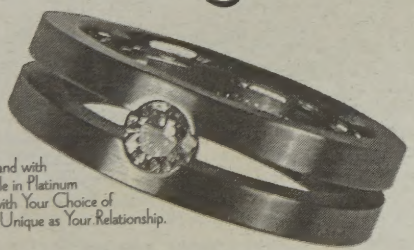

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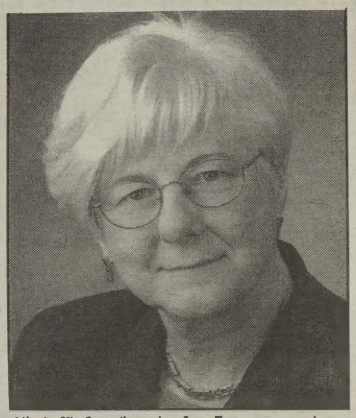
local news

Bars to stay open late for Pride

JENNIFER J. SMITH



Atlanta City Council member **Anne Fauver** sponsored a successful measure to extend alcohol sales by four hours on June 29, the closing day of the Atlanta Pride festival.

Atlanta bars can stay open four hours later on June 29 — the Sunday of the Atlanta Pride Festival — thanks to an ordinance sponsored by Atlanta City Council member Anne Fauver, who is gay and represents District 6, home to many of the city's gay clubs.

The one-time rule extends closing time for businesses that sell alcohol on Sunday from midnight on June 29 to 4 a.m. on June 30.

The measure passed a City Council committee on June 10 and was approved by the full City Council by a 9-33 vote on June 16. Council members C.T. Martin, Derrick Boazman and Howard Shook voted against the measure, and three of the 15 members were not present for the vote, according to the Council's communications office.

Gay club owners lauded the vote, including Michael Clutter, owner of Bulldog's, a gay bar on Peachtree Street.

"Anne Fauver is our new heroine," he said. "She really came through for us on short notice, and she carried the ball in a major way. This is something that has been done for other segments of the population, and I'm glad it's being done for something as large and as important to Atlanta as Pride."

The measure is nearly identical to one passed for the NBA All-Star weekend in February, Fauver said.

During the 2003 General Assembly, gay state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates) sponsored unsuccessful legislation that would have allowed bars to open on Sunday and let Atlanta permanently extend the hours for Sunday alcohol sales. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin opposed the bill, citing concerns about stretching police resources too thin.

The Georgia Supreme Court is currently considering a case that could overturn the state's ban on Sunday alcohol sales in bars. The state of Georgia and the city of Atlanta are appealing a ruling by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Marvin Arrington that found unconstitutional state laws and related Atlanta city ordinances that prevent alcohol sales on Sunday in bars, but provide exemptions for other venues, including hotels and restaurants.

Backstreet's license hearing postponed

JENNIFER J. SMITH

An appeal hearing contesting a $9,000 fine and 30-day liquor license suspension for Backstreet, Atlanta's largest gay nightclub, has been postponed for a third time, according to attorneys representing the club.

The hearing had been scheduled for June 13, and Backstreet attorneys and the city of Atlanta's law department had been negotiating a settlement, according to Jackson Cook, Backstreet's lead attorney.

"But we agreed that we couldn't agree at the last minute," he said.

Atlanta City Attorney Linda DiSantis did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Backstreet has been fighting sanctions handed down by Mayor Shirley Franklin for several months. Franklin announced Jan. 29 that she would uphold a recommendation from the city's License Review Board, a citizen panel appointed by the mayor that includes one openly gay member, to suspend Backstreet's alcohol license for 30 days and levy a fine of $9,000 for alleged drug sales inside the venues.

Backstreet appealed Franklin's decision, and the case is currently before Fulton County Superior Court Judge Wendy Shoob.

Backstreet attorneys will file briefs on the appeal within the next 10 days, with the city answering within 10 days after that, according to Cook. The hearing is now scheduled for July 3, Cook said.

"We knew all along that if the negotiations did not work out, either side would be able to do this," he said. "So this wasn't a dropped stitch."

Backstreet's owners, Vicki and Henry Vera, are "very confident about the outcome," Cook said.

On the same day that Franklin announced the city's sanctions against Backstreet, she also announced a 30-day license suspension and $9,000 fine for the Metro Video Bar, another gay nightclub that faced allegations of drug sales. In that case, Franklin softened the recommendation of the License Review Board, which had suggested permanently revoking the Metro's license.

The Metro is also negotiating to settle with the city, according to Metro attorney Alan Begner. The club's appeal has not received a court date, owner Don Hunnewell said.

Both venues remain open.

local news

Gruesome homicide detailed as Fulton trial opens

Two gay Ala. men charged with April 2002 slaying of gay Buckhead resident who picked them up for sex

By MATTHEW A. HENNIE and RYAN LEE

Inviting two young men home in the hopes of having sex proved to be a fatal mistake for David K. Cook, a 41-year-old travel agent brutally slain last year in his high-rise Buckhead apartment.

Cook suffered some 40 stab wounds, including a possibly fatal strike into a jugular vein, had a telephone cord wrapped around his hands, his feet bound with a sweatshirt, and a pillow case and towel tied around his head before being left to die.

Prosecutors accuse Joseph Hall, Jr., 20, and Edward Jamar McCloud, 22, of killing Cook after socializing, drinking and having sex into the early morning of April 8, 2002.

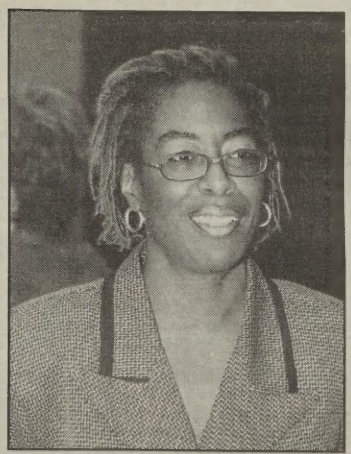
Attorneys for the two Alabama men, who were boyfriends at the time, said their clients aren't responsible for the homicide.

"They took his life and ultimately left him in his apartment to rot," Kimberly A. Staten-Hayes, a Fulton County assistant district attorney, said during her opening statement on Tuesday.

Hall and McCloud face charges of murder, felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, theft by taking, and financial transaction card theft. They face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

But Alicia Thomas, Hall's attorney, told the jury of 11 women and three men — a panel of 12 with two alternates — that he acted in self-defense, fending off an unwanted sexual advance from Cook that prompted a struggle.

"He started stabbing and then stopped. The threat was gone," Thomas said in describing how Hall reacted to what he purported to be an attack from the sexually aggressive, much larger Cook.



Kimberly A. Staten-Hayes, a Fulton County assistant district attorney, said the homicide of David Cook is about 'sex, lies and videotape.' (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

McCloud's attorney, David Doering, said his client did not kill Cook. But in his brief, four-minute opening statement, Doering did not detail what happened during the incident.

"This is a case where the state has a dead body and they don't know who killed the victim," Doering said.

'Sex, lies and videotape'

Hayes, in her 12-minute opening statement, leaned on a stream of movie titles to lay out the prosecution's version of the gruesome crime that unfolded over two hours early on April 8.

"Sex, lies and videotape. Bondage and torture. Murder and mayhem. Catch me if you can. Sweet home Alabama," Staten-Hayes said. "Put these concepts together and they form the basis of why we are here."

Prosecutors contend that Cook, enjoying a day off from his job at a Roswell travel agency, spent a Sunday evening along Peachtree Street in Midtown in search of fun and "possibly, some safe sex."

Raised in Philadelphia as the third of four sons, Cook moved to Atlanta in 1998. For years, family members knew he was gay, according to testimony from John Cook, his brother.

"It was no secret to anyone that he was gay," Cook said Tuesday. "David would probably say he was gay all of his life."

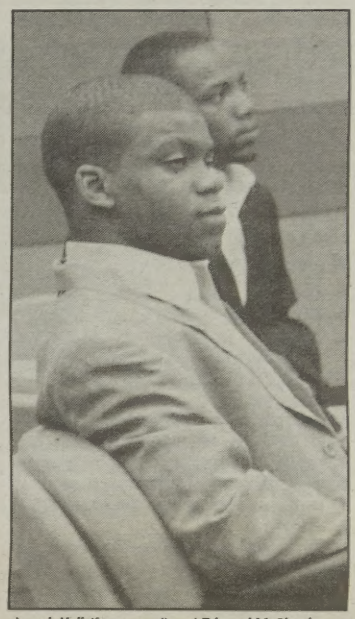
During the evening of April 7, Cook met Hall and McCloud, who arrived in Atlanta from Alabama a day or so earlier. Cook invited the men to his 28th-floor apartment in the Grandview Condominiums at 3481 Lakeside Drive in Buckhead. What started as a sexual interlude turned violent in the early morning hours of April 8, Staten-Hayes said.

"Cook was not a perfect person. He made the mistake, the poor judgment of allowing these two men into his vehicle and ultimately, into his home," she said.

Video surveillance from the Grandview, the prosecutor alleged, showed the three men — Cook, Hall and McCloud — enter the building about 1 a.m., and Hall and McCloud leaving about two hours later in Cook's white 1992 Chrysler New Yorker. The car was recovered weeks later in Alabama, where the two men were arrested — Hall on May 7 and McCloud on May 21.

Cook's landlord, who lived next door in the 35-floor building, found the body on April 10 after co-workers asked security officials to check on him. Cook, a diabetic, had missed two days of work at Enhancement Services in Roswell, according to Penny Solomon, a manager at the business.

Forensic experts testified Tuesday that Cook's one-bedroom unit was littered with bloody handprints, droplets and splatters. Police discovered his nude body face down beside the end of his bed. His feet were bound together with a yellow sweatshirt, his hands with the phone cord from his bedroom, and a blue pillow cover and white towel were tied around his head.



Joseph Hall (foreground) and Edward McCloud are charged with the April 2002 murder of David Cook, a gay Buckhead resident who met the two men in Midtown. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

For the latest developments in the trial, click on www.sovo.com

Cook was stabbed more than 40 times in the thigh, back, shoulder and neck, with a possibly fatal wound that stretched eight inches across his neck, according to Dr. Eric Kieseo, deputy chief medical examiner for Fulton County. Cook also suffered a broken jaw, chipped teeth and was suffocated.

A two-pronged cooking fork, which investigators discovered in a dish rack after it had been cleaned of blood and finger prints, caused many of Cook's wounds, though a second object was also used, Kieseo testified.

Fingerprints later tied Hall to Cook's apartment, though investigators did not find any for McCloud, according to Charles Moss, a forensic fingerprint examiner for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

'Truth is ugly'

Attorneys for Hall and McCloud painted a starkly different picture of what happened between the three men.

"This case is not a movie. It is not a book," Thomas said Tuesday during an opening statement that spanned about 15 minutes. "The outcome to this case will change everyone's life."

Thomas argued that Hall and McCloud met Cook while spending a night out on the town, a break from the doldrums of waiting for Hall's sister to arrive from Hinesville.

The two men were going to live with her since Hall's father kicked him out of their home in Montgomery, Ala., when he came out as gay. Hall, a student at Alabama State University, planned on transferring to another school after the move.

"They just wanted to have a good time," Thomas said.

Hall and McCloud met Cook and later agreed to a ride to his Buckhead apartment, where they were joined by a fourth person, identified only as David during testimony on Wednesday. The police investigation and surveillance tapes from the Grandview did not confirm his presence.

A flurry of drinking, light drug use and sex took place once the men entered the apartment.

The three man had sex with McCloud, Hall said during 90 minutes of testimony, and then Cook turned to Hall for anal sex. David convinced Hall to inhale amyl nitrate, an over-the-counter drug referred to as "poppers," to relax for the continued sex. But then David left the apartment, Hall testified.

"I was real light-headed from the rush, so I laid down," Hall said.

When he woke up a few minutes later, Hall said Cook was on top of him, trying to penetrate him. Hall said he had never had receptive anal sex — "I play the male role," he testified — and told Cook to stop.

Hall said Cook became upset and aggressive, swinging at him and landing a blow to the mouth. Hall retaliated and the two exchanged blows. Once Cook left the bedroom, Hall said he and McCloud prepared to leave, but Cook blocked the front door.

"He was like, 'Y'all ain't going no where,'" Hall said. "That's when I seen the knife. I thought this dude was about to kill me, so I snapped."

Hall told jurors the moment he saw Cook holding the knife, he had a flashback to age 7, when his father stabbed his mother to death. He then grabbed the knife from Cook, and "I had an episode and started stabbing him out of control.

"I was thinking this was my dad and he was trying to kill me — me and my mama," Hall said, admitting he inflicted more than half of the 40 stab wounds Cook suffered.

"When I came to, I thought, 'Oh my God, what am I doing.' I realized that wasn't my father; this was this dude, David [Cook]," Hall testified.

Hall added that he tied Cook's hands with the telephone cord, left the bedroom and began picking up his clothes from around the apartment. When he returned, Hall said McCloud had placed the pillow case over Cook's head, and was about to cut his throat.

"I was like, 'No, Jamar, don't kill him,'" Hall said. He said he was about to call the police, but McCloud told him they should leave.

Please see MURDER TRIAL on Page 79

local news

State bias law to get next test in racial case

HATE LAW, continued from Page 3

one of the assistant Fulton County district attorneys who prosecuted Price.

"Preparing for a hate crime, you have to do a more extensive investigation into the 'why' the crime was committed," said Hughes, who also heads the hate crimes unit in the Fulton district attorney's office. "In criminal law, the state is not required to prove motive, ever."

Getting inside someone's head is a difficult task, especially without either historic or overt hateful expressions from the defendant.

"Without a history of hate, the chances are good you can't make hate crime charges stick," Levin said. "Often they depend on the perpetrator shouting a slur while he also injures the victim. Not all hate crime offenders are stupid enough to do that."

Adding to the difficulty of proving a motive, the Georgia law also requires prosecutors to prove the perpetrator "intentionally selected" his or her victim based on bias or prejudice.

In Price's case, "I think the jury misunderstood," Hughes said. "They kind of had in their minds that there had to be some premeditation."

Hughes said she wasn't second-guessing the jury, but added that the law's language may cause some to believe you have to stalk your victim to "intentionally select" them.

"You wouldn't want to give the impression that it's only a hate crime when you wake up and go out looking for people to attack," said Greg Nevins, senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal, a national gay rights organization that supports hate crime laws. "If the judge instructed that it had to be selecting, it could be that the instruction needs to be modified."

After the Price trial, juror Linda Leary told Southern Voice that she and other jurors thought "the definition the judge gave us didn't apply to this case."

Little chance of revising law

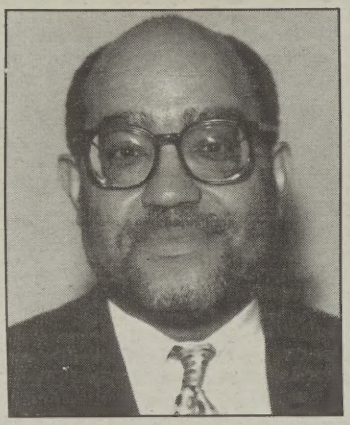
Even without a clear victory in the first hate crimes jury trial in Georgia, supporters of the law remain unfazed.

"The statute has been used all of one time," Fort said. "I think the law was a good law, and when we passed it prominent district attorneys said they thought it would pass muster."

In 2001, gay activists thought the hate crimes law would get its first test in the case of Sara "Sissy" Bowen, a lesbian who was accosted at Floyd's Bar in the Windsor Hotel in Americus, Ga.

Steven Van Deventer allegedly struck Bowen in the face after a verbal altercation in which Van Deventer "began taunting her due to her sexuality," according to an incident report filed by the Americus Police Department.

Van Deventer pleaded no contest to simple battery charges. Sumter County State Court Judge Michael A. Fennesy rejected a plea agreement between Van Deventer and prosecutors and sentenced him to 12 months in jail, with 30 days to actually serve, and a $600 fine.



State **Sen. Vincent Fort** (D-Atlanta), sponsor of the legislation that created Georgia's hate crimes law, said the law is sound, despite Aaron Price's acquittal on bias charges. (Photo by Cindy Sproul)

Bowen and activists with Georgia Equality praised the sentence, saying that the hate crime law motivated the judge to enhance Van Deventer's punishment even though there was no formal hate crime charge.

But Fennesy said the law had no impact on his sentencing.

"He was not sentenced under that law. It was not enhanced based upon that law," Fennesy told Southern Voice at the time. "I sentenced him within the parameters of the standard law."

The recent Price case marked the first official trial under the hate crimes law, although the statute has also already faced its first legal challenge.

The charges against Price went to trial first, but Fulton County prosecutors previously invoked the hate crimes statute in another case, an April 2002 beating in Little 5 Points that was allegedly motivated by racial bias.

Three white defendants — Ulysses Andrade, Christopher Botts and Angela Piscotta — are charged with assaulting Che and Idris Golden, who are black. Two of the defendants, Botts and Piscotta, face hate crime charges.

Botts' attorneys tried to have the hate charges dropped in pretrial motions, claiming the law is too broad and violates free speech rights. A Fulton County judge disagreed, and on Jan. 9, the Georgia Supreme Court refused to hear the complaint.

Whatever problems the statute may have, Fort and Thornell agreed that there is little chance it could be revised. In 2000, Democrats controlled both the state House and Senate, along with the governor's mansion. Currently, Republicans control the latter two.

"Any reopening of the law in the more conservative legislature would be difficult," Fort said.

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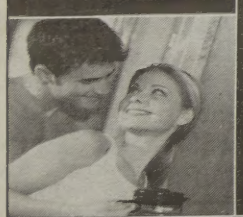

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local news

Judge issues gag order in shooting case

Ruling prompted by television interview of woman allegedly shot by former partner

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The judge presiding over the trial of Marcia Gibson, the woman charged with shooting Fulton County Superior Court Judge Cynthia Wright, issued a gag order for all parties last week, according to court documents.

Prompted by a televised interview of Wright with local station WXIA-TV, Lynne Borsuk, an attorney for Gibson, filed a motion June 6 requesting the order. The interview "threatens to poison the atmosphere surrounding the defendant's trial," the motion said.

Wright was allegedly shot by Gibson, her former girlfriend, in the driveway of the judge's home on March 17.

Clayton County Superior Court Judge Stephen E. Boswell — assigned to cover the Fulton County case to prevent a conflict of interest — signed the order "prohibiting extrajudicial statements" on June 13.

"Based upon the facts of this case to date, the court determines there is reasonable likelihood that the defendant's right to a fair trial could be prejudiced by this publicity," Boswell's order states.

Borsuk and Erik Friendly, spokesperson for the Fulton County District Attorney's office, declined comment on the order.

Gibson pleaded not guilty in a May 23 arraignment and faces two counts of aggravated assault and possession of a firearm during a felony. If found guilty, she could serve 20 years in prison.

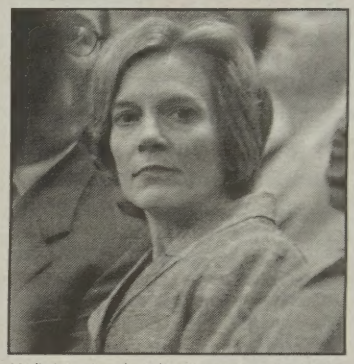
Attorneys for Wright and Gibson have declined comment on the relationship between the two women.

A spokesperson for the Atlanta Police Department initially described the incident as a "domestic dispute."

The shooting happened two months after Wright allegedly broke off a two-year romantic relationship that ended violently, according to court testimony during a bond hearing.

During the April 18 hearing, where Wright was granted a $300,000 bond, friends for both Wright and Gibson testified about the women's relationship, and their break-up Jan. 11.

Jane Barwick, a lawyer for Habitat for Humanity, testified she was called at 1:30 a.m. Jan. 12 to "help remove Marcia" from Wright's house after a fight. Gibson, allegedly drunk, refused to leave Wright's house after a physical altercation, Barwick said.



Media interviews by Fulton County Superior Court Judge **Cynthia Wright**, who was shot in March in an apparent domestic dispute, prompted attorneys for Marcia Gibson, the woman accused of the crime, to ask for a gag order in the case. (Photo by Catherine Lovett/Fulton County Daily Report)

"I am terrified for Judge Wright. I am scared to death," Barwick said. "As is she."

Mary Moore, owner of the Cook's Warehouse in Midtown, testified Gibson showed up "uninvited and unannounced" to her home March 16, the night before the shooting. Gibson "wanted to talk," but Moore turned her away, she said.

"I was very unnerved, very nervous," Moore said.

Atlanta Police Det. Vincent Velazquez, the lead detective in Wright's case, testified that Wright identified Gibson as the shooter.

On the morning of the shooting, Wright was walking her dog around 7:30 a.m. when she was approached by Gibson "who wanted to talk," he said.

Wright refused and tried to return to the house, but Gibson allegedly followed her, putting the barrel of a gun in Wright's back, Velazquez said.

There was a struggle for the gun, and "at some point she realized she had lost possession of the gun, so she started running," he said.

Wright ran down her front steps, towards the driveway and her SUV, according to Velazquez. She was shot once in the lower back by a bullet which exited through her right breast.

From 15 to 20 feet away, Gibson allegedly shot "several more times," hitting Wright in the left hip and grazing her arm, Velazquez said.

Approximately nine hours later, Gibson, accompanied by her attorney, turned herself in to police.

Wright spent three weeks at Grady Memorial Hospital and returned to work earlier this month.

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national news

N.M. ruling may allow gays to sue for loss of companionship

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — In a decision that may pave the way for same-sex partner claims, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that people in long-term relationships — married or not — can sue over loss of companionship when the loved one is injured. Lawyers say the gender-neutral ruling handed down in Santa Fe this spring left open the question of whether same-sex couples would have the same rights as other unmarried couples in such "consortium" cases. "We hold as a matter of first impression under New Mexico law that a claim for loss of consortium is not limited to married partners," Justice Pamela Minzner wrote in the April 25 decision. There was no dissent. The ruling, which imposed no preconceptions about gender on future cases, said only that the relationship must be "committed and exclusive," with no other intimate or spouse clouding the case. "I think this decision certainly sets the groundwork for same-sex couples to file claims for consortium," said Nicole Schamban, president of the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association.

Justice **Pamela Minzner** authored a recent New Mexico Supreme Court ruling that attorneys say may allow gay couples to sue for loss of companionship if a partner is injured. (Photo courtesy of the Supreme Court of New Mexico)

Calif. lesbian seeks alimony in 'divorce'

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Michelle Platt's lawsuit against her former partner of eight years, gay civil rights activist Marsha Naify, seeks ongoing monetary support similar to alimony and could be precedent setting, according to Platt's attorney, Jeffrey Erdman. Platt wants between $10,000 and $20,000 per month, reported Frontiers, a gay newsmagazine. "We are confident that Marsha will prevail in every respect," Naify's attorney said in a written statement. Platt argues in court documents that she deserves the ongoing payments because she gave "more time and energy to the business/investment interests and affairs of Naify, at Naify's insistence and request, and [she] eventually discontinued working independently of her work on behalf of Ms. Naify." The lawsuit is pending before the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach.

New Mass. judicial rules bar anti-gay bias

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts' highest court updated its ethical code of conduct for judges for the first time in 30 years. The Supreme Judicial Court released the new 52-page code of ethics on June 13, and the new version, which takes effect Oct. 1. It includes new rules and accompanying commentary to help judges interpret the rules. The code's language was also updated to remove male-only references to judges and add domestic partners to language referring to a judge's spouse. For the first time, the SJC also banned judges from joining groups that practice "invidious discrimination" on the basis of sexual orientation or ethnicity, other than churches, the military, and any "intimate, purely private organization." The earlier rules had only specified non-discrimination based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

La. Senate bans public sex, keeps sodomy law

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana Senate went on record June 16 against sex in public, following the lead of the state House, which passed the bill a month ago. An explicit videotape shot during the French Quarter's Southern Decadence festival, an annual gay celebration, inspired the legislation. The video has been much circulated by a New Orleans minister who wants his city to clamp down on the festival. Public sex is already illegal, but the new bill outlaws sex for the "purpose of drawing a crowd" and includes harsher penalties than those in the existing law, of up to a year in jail and a fine of $1,000. The unanimous decision came less than a week after the state Senate defeated an effort to repeal Louisiana's 197-year-old anti-sodomy law by a 23-10 vote.

Kraft settles suit over same-sex harassment

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The federal government and the parent company of Nabisco Inc. settled a lawsuit that claimed a male supervisor at a Nabisco distribution center sexually harassed male employees. U.S. District Judge Sharon Lovelace Blackburn was asked last week to approve the agreement between the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Kraft Foods Inc., which owns Nabisco. The EEOC filed suit in October contending route drivers and warehouse workers at the Nabisco facility were retaliated against when they complained about a gay supervisor. Charles E. Guerrier, a lawyer for the EEOC, said the agreement resulted from private settlements of "substantial amounts." Kraft spokesperson Lynne Galia said the allegations occurred before Kraft bought Nabisco. In a separate case, RSG Forest Products settled a same-sex harassment lawsuit by the EEOC late last month, according to a consent decree filed in U.S. District Court in Portland, Ore. RSG agreed to pay $20,000 in compensatory and punitive damages to the man who initially complained and $45,000 to each of four other male workers. The company admitted no wrongdoing.

From staff and wire reports

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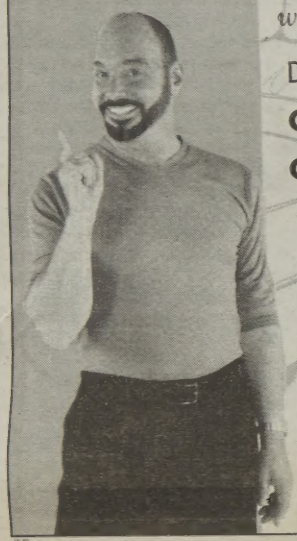

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international news

Paris mayor slammed for marching in gay Pride

PARIS — A conservative French politician has criticized the gay mayor of Paris for taking part in the city's annual gay Pride march, saying his attendance was unseemly, Reuters reported last week. Francoise de Panafieu, a member of President Jacques Chirac's ruling UMP party, told the weekly VSD in an interview that Socialist Mayor Bertrand Delanoe should not be promoting his sexual orientation. "Being elected carries a responsibility and when you are mayor of Paris, you don't really belong at the head of gay Pride," the magazine quoted her as saying in the interview. "It is undignified, when you represent a city like Paris, to march in the first row of such a demonstration. Just as it would be, in general, to see a mayor parading at the head of a carnival." Delanoe has taken part in the gay Pride march since before his election as mayor in 2001. The march is scheduled for June 28 in Paris.

A conservative French politician said Paris Mayor **Bertrand Delanoe**, who is gay, is 'undignified' for marching in the city's annual Gay Pride parade. (Photo by Francois Mori/AP)

Suicide bombing delays Israeli gay Pride parade

JERUSALEM (AP) — The second year for the gay rights parade in the Israeli capital has turned into a tumultuous one. The parade, originally set for June 13, was postponed until June 20 following a June 11 Jerusalem bus bombing that killed 17 people, including Alan Beer, one of the parade's organizers. Meanwhile, Jerusalem police began investigating the destruction of approximately 20 of the 100 rainbow-striped flags hung by the Jerusalem municipality in the city center over the past week. Parade organizer Hagai Elad said the flags were destroyed on Sunday and Monday nights. "I blame the police for not taking proper precautions," he said. Jerusalem's newly elected ultra-Orthodox mayor gave lukewarm backing this week for the parade. Uri Lupolianski, who was elected mayor June 3, defended the right to hold the parade, while making it clear he had no intention of participating in it. In a statement sent to the Maariv daily, the right-wing Kach movement, banned under Israeli law since the 1980s, sharply criticized Lupolianski for allowing the flags to be hung.

New Zealand leaders backtrack on 'lesbian dads'

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — The New Zealand government is promising a hasty revision of a new family bill that appears to allow a woman in a lesbian relationship to become a child's father, The Press reported last week. The Care of Children Bill provoked an uproar in Parliament, with both National and Government support party United Future accusing Labour of social engineering. The new bill technically allows a child to have three parents if it is the product of a sperm donor to a lesbian couple, where the donor also asks to be named as a parent, The Press reported. At the core of the controversy is a clause that appears to allow the father of the child to be a woman. National leader Bill English called the clause "a remarkable feat of biotechnology" and said Labour believed fathers need no longer be men.

Leaders in Chile advance bill to support same-sex couples

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chilean lawmakers sent a bill to Congress last week that would grant legal status to gay and lesbian couples, Reuters reported. The proposed law would allow same-sex couples who have lived together for at least two years to legalize their union through a civil contract granting them rights to pensions and inheritances. Right-wing opposition has vowed to defeat the bill. "A small powerful group is holding Chilean society hostage because they don't want to reform the laws so that citizens have the option of choosing their own lifestyle," said deputy Maria Antonieta Saa, one of the backers of the bill.

New anti-discrimination law lacks teeth, activists say

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A new, first-of-its-kind anti-discrimination law signed with fanfare earlier this month is already being questioned by some who say it lacks teeth and by others who fear it could restrict free speech. President Vicente Fox called the federal measure "historic" as he signed it June 9. The law requires federal agencies to take steps to eliminate discrimination and calls for a campaign to promote tolerance. It also makes it illegal — though not formally a crime — to discriminate against people on the basis of traits including sex or "sexual preferences." But the measure's far-reaching goals seem contradictory to its narrow enforcement options. A new National Council to Prevent Discrimination is supposed to receive and act upon complaints. Enforcement is largely limited to discussing the problem with culprits, however. "It's an instrument of great importance for us, because it recognizes the problem. But even so, we believe it is insufficient," said Rodolfo Millan, legal coordinator for the Citizens Commission Against Homophobic Crimes.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Canada's PM endorses gay marriage

Government won't interfere with provincial court ruling

By KEVIN SPENCE

NEW YORK — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced Tuesday that he would draft a law allowing gays to marry. A week earlier, two Toronto men became the first same-sex couple to be wed in Ontario after a provincial appeals court overturned Canada's ban on gay marriages as unconstitutional.

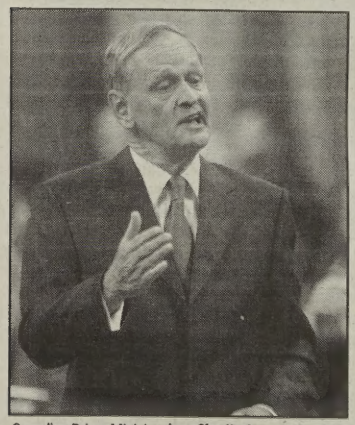
To circumvent any constitutional challenges by conservative provincial governments, Canada's Supreme Court will review Chrétien's proposed bill, according to the New York Times. Then, the bill goes to Parliament, where there appears to be a simple majority in favor of repealing the ban on gay marriage.

Aside from Chrétien's Liberal Party, Bloc Québécois and New Democratic Party leaders have told media sources that they intend to support such a proposal.

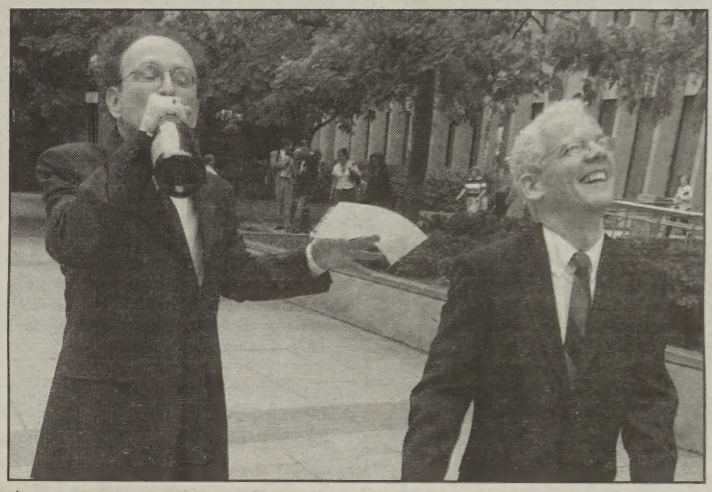
The decision by the Ontario court gives same-sex couples who live there the same status that they currently enjoy only in Belgium and the Netherlands. In the United States, only Vermont grants civil unions. But Ontario goes even further than the two European countries, which have a residency requirement before gay couples can be wed. Ontario has no such restriction.

Gay marriage activists on both sides of the border are celebrating the court's decision. Many American advocates of marriage equality are hopeful that the Canadian prime minister's public avowal of their cause may mean a sea change in attitudes in the United States.

"What this presents for American couples is an opportunity to easily enter into a legal marriage and come back to the United States with a powerful tool to break down the remaining discrimination here," Lavi Soloway, founder of the New York-based Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, told the Times.



Canadian Prime Minister **Jean Chretien's** government announced Tuesday that it would not appeal court rulings allowing same-sex marriages. Instead, they will introduce legislation this fall making gay marriages legal for the entire country. (Photo by Tom Hanson/AP)



Michael Leshner (left) and **Michael Stark** celebrated their marriage with a bottle of champagne. They were the first gay couple legally married in Canada. (Photo by Michael Stupyark/Toronto Star)

Advocates like Soloway also hope that couples returning from Canada will challenge states' refusal to recognize the legality of their relationships.

U.S. couples face uncertainties

Already, there appears to be a smattering of U.S. gay couples going to Toronto, Windsor, Ottawa, Stratford and other Ontario cities to marry.

The number may be higher after provincial officials process the qualifying documents from interested couples, but "currently there are 10 same-sex marriage registrants," said Gerald Crowell, a spokesperson with the Ministry of Consumer & Business Services in Ontario.

American couples wedded in Ontario may still face "uncertainties and discrimination," upon their return to the United States, according to a joint advisory issued by New York-based Freedom to Marry and other pro-gay marriage organizations.

"People in Seattle cannot go to Vancouver," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry. "As of today, only in Ontario may they marry."

A spokesperson at the Office of the Registrar General for the province of Ontario said a few couples registered to get married on the day of the decision. "It's tapered off a little since then."

Registering is a two-step process, Crowell said. First, applicants must go to city hall to fill out a series of forms. Those papers are then filed with the provincial government at the Registrar General. Crowell speculates that there may be 20 or more couples who have already registered in Toronto.

Crowell was unsure of the percentage of American applicants.

"We don't capture that residency data," he said.

The majority of gay marriages in Ontario are taking place in Toronto and Ottawa, the Canadian capital, he added.

Toronto City Counselor Kyle Rae said four American couples have wed there so far.

"We have people from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida and Washington," said Rae, a gay member of the City Council. "Since June 10, there have been a total of 131 same-sex marriages" in the province.

Rae himself plans to join their ranks June 20 by marrying his partner of nine years, Mark Reid, at a ceremony in an art gallery within the downtown ward that Rae represents.

Religious allowances

In a bow to organized religion, Chrétien announced that his proposed bill would allow religious institutions to refuse to marry gay couples. But in Canada as elsewhere, couples can be wed in civil ceremonies as well as religious ceremonies where a member of the clergy is licensed by the government to perform marriage ceremonies.

In most towns throughout Ontario, a marriage license can be obtained from the clerk at the Marriage License Issuers, the Canadian equivalent of a marriage bureau. The license is valid anywhere in Ontario for three months.

To obtain a license, only one of the parties must be physically present. Necessary documents are identification, such as a birth certificate, current passport and photo identification for both individuals. The fee varies slightly from city to city.

Mass. case pending

In the United States, the issue of gay marriage is about to become more heated.

At present, Massachusetts presents the most likely prospect for approximating Ontario's decision and even moving beyond neighboring Vermont's civil unions, according to Mary Bonauto, an attorney at Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

Bonauto argued a case in front of the Massachusetts State Supreme Judicial Court on March 4, in which she represented seven same-sex couples seeking the right to marry under the state Constitution. By law, a decision must be made 130 days after the argument, so Bonauto expects a ruling soon.

"We could win it, or also lose it, or end up in a Vermont-type decision in which the court says you're entitled to the protections of marriage," she said. "Our case argues that [current interpretation of the law] is excluding same-sex couples from what is already in the Constitution," she said.

If the court agrees with her plaintiffs, then the state legislature doesn't have to take up any amendment to current law, Bonauto said.

The premise of the right for gay couples to marry is based on "equality, liberty and privacy," she said.

Many states have passed so-called "defense of marriage acts," which limit marriage to a man and a woman. In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the national Defense of Marriage Act into law.

N.J. case heads to court

New Jersey is providing another judicial battleground for the fight to marry. The State Supreme Court agreed to hear oral arguments in the case of seven same-sex couples.

"Canada this week has shown us what's possible in New Jersey," said David Buckel, an attorney at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which is arguing the case.

The state's attorney general tried to quash the suit by arguing that gay people can indeed marry — just not each other. Lambda Legal successfully fended off that challenge. Gov. Jim McGreevey said he cannot comment on court cases, but shortly after the case was filed, the Democrat said he objects to any effort by a court to reverse state law as it applies to marriage.

But a multi-pronged approach will impel legislation and public sentiment to include gay couples, Bonauto said.

If the Massachusetts decision is favorable to gays, it will be a national boon for gay marriage, she said.

"We all know gay families live in every county," she said. "The families are there as a part of the community. They need the same protection afforded to other families. We're in a civil rights movement here."

MORE INFO

Canadian government
www.cbs.gov.on.ca

Freedom to Marry
www.freedomtomarry.com

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
www.lambdalegal.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders
www.glad.org

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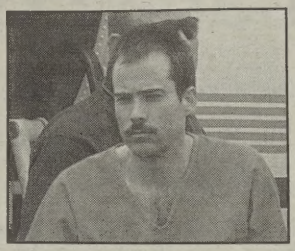
Accused serial bomber drops effort seeking bond

Birmingham, Ala. — Accused serial bomber Eric Robert Rudolph waived his right to a scheduled bond hearing Monday when it became clear he would not be granted bail, his lawyers told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Rudolph pleaded innocent June 6 to federal charges in the 1998 bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic and stands accused in a string of Atlanta bombings, including the February 1997 bombing of gay bar the Otherside Lounge that injured five people. Through notes left near the bombing sites, investigators believe Rudolph was motivated by anti-gay and anti-abortion views. He was arrested May 31 in Murphy, N.C., after five years on the lam. Prosecutors later extradited Rudolph to Birmingham, rather than Atlanta, because they felt the evidence — including witnesses who identified Rudolph — was strongest against him in that incident, though Rudolph may later face trial in Atlanta.



Accused bomber **Eric Robert Rudolph** waived his right to a bail hearing June 17 as he awaits trial on federal charges that he bombed a Birmingham abortion clinic, which killed one. Rudolph is also suspected in three bombings in metro Atlanta, including one at a lesbian nightclub. (Photo by AP)

Fla. woman gets 25 years for shooting ex, bystander

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A 62-year-old lesbian received two prison sentences of 25 years and one of 20 years for shooting her estranged partner and a bystander outside a church. Andrea Cobb was sentenced June 11 for attempted first- and second-degree murder and aggravated battery for the April 2002 shootings. The punishment amounts to a life sentence given her age, but it is the minimum set by state law. Assistant Public Defender Michael Van Cavage argued for a lesser sentence on grounds Cobb has no prior criminal record and was overmedicated on prescription drugs when she shot her ex-lover, Joyce Anderson, in the hand and Nancy Browning, a church member who tried to stop the attack. A bullet lodged in Browing's spine permanently disabled her. Neither victim attended the sentencing.

Pa. prison to pay for trans inmate's hormone treatments

PITTSBURGH — As part of an out-of-court settlement, the state of Pennsylvania agreed June 13 to pay the hormone therapy costs of a transgendered prisoner incarcerated in the 1995 rape of an 8-year-old girl, according to the Pittsburgh Tribune. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is paying for hormones for Jessica Elaine Wolfe, born James Elliot Wolfe, 39. Prison spokesperson Susan McNaughton said the inmate is taking an estrogen replacement drug that costs about $240 a year. Wolfe told the paper that she is also receiving shots that help decrease testosterone levels and can cost as much as $7,000 a year. "It's basically humanitarian medical considerations," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "They should be punished, and the punishment is incarceration, but the punishment is not withholding medically necessary treatment." Wolfe was taking female hormones to prepare for sex-change surgery when she was arrested. Prison officials stopped the treatment, causing withdrawal symptoms, according to a lawsuit filed by Wolfe.

Murder case against N.C. novelist readies for start

DURHAM, N.C. — Jury selection in the murder trial of war novelist Michael Peterson, 59, is expected to be completed next week, paving the way for opening arguments on June 23, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Peterson stands accused of the December 2001 killing of his wife, Nortel executive Kathleen Peterson in a case swirling with themes of money, status, politics and bisexuality. After the death, Peterson's private life underwent public scrutiny, which heightened after investigators found gay pornography on his home computer and men who say they had sex with him. Questions asked of potential jurors indicated that prosecutors will introduce that evidence at trial. To add to the intrigue, the body of a Peterson friend — and mother to his two adopted children — was exhumed this spring after prosecutors learned she died in a 1985 stairway fall similar to the way Peterson says his wife accidentally died. The case's twists make it a public fascination, including plans for live Court TV coverage and a French documentary. "It doesn't get a lot more compelling than this," Peterson's lawyer, David Rudolph, told the newspaper.

Iowa man feared reporting assault outside gay bar

DES MOINES, Iowa — A man waited until June 11 to report a May 25 assault outside a gay bar because he feared retaliation from his attacker, the Des Moines Register reported. Michael Moon, 32, said the man broke his leg after forcing him to say that he would leave town and seek God's forgiveness for being gay. "I was afraid he was going to track me down, track down my family if I reported it," Moon said. "He said, 'Faggots need to get out of town.'" Moon told City Council member Christine Hensley about the incident during Gay Pride festivities on June 8 and she convinced him to go to police. An arrest warrant is imminent, police said.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Presbyterian minister ousted over gay weddings

Congregation will continue fight for gay inclusion in church

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

CINCINNATI—The Cincinnati Presbytery, an assembly of churches in the Midwest, voted June 16 to remove Rev. Stephen Van Kuiken from ministry because he performed a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple — an action that the presbytery considered a flagrant disregard for its authority.

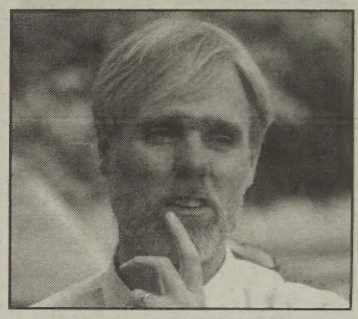
Van Kuiken was "dismissed permanently" from his job as minister of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, said Yvette Dalton, associate presbyter and acting head of the Cincinnati presbytery.

"He could join another church, but he would have to go through the whole process of ordination again," she said.

Van Kuiken appeared before a special meeting of the Cincinnati Presbytery to explain the May 17 ceremony that defied the church's constitution and an April church court ruling that specifically forbade him from marrying same-sex couples.

"For me, this is a matter of honor and integrity," he told voting members of the special meeting.

But the presbytery made "the right call" with its 119-45 vote to dismiss Van Kuiken, according to Bob Davis, executive director of Presbyterian Forum, a conservative Presbyterian group that does not support gay marriage or ordination.



The presbytery of Cincinnati voted Monday to oust Rev. **Stephen Van Kuiken** from Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church for uniting a same-sex couple in May after being told explicitly not to perform gay marriages. (Photo by Tom Uhlman/AP)

"It happened as a reflection of his public announcement that he was doing it in defiance and that he would continue doing it," Davis said.

Van Kuiken sent out a media announcement immediately following the same-sex ceremony that he performed in May.

"Some people will see this as a political action, but first and foremost for me it is a personal statement of faith," he said in an interview with Southern Voice at the time.

In April, Van Kuiken went to trial before the permanent judicial commission of the Cincinnati presbytery for performing same-sex ceremonies with liturgies that the church uses to perform opposite-sex marriages and for ordaining gay elders and deacons at the church.

The Presbyterian Church allows pastors to bless same-sex couples as long as the minister differentiates the ceremonies. Same-sex ceremonies are called "holy unions." Opposite-sex unions are "marriages."

The panel found Van Kuiken guilty of marrying same-sex couples and issued the mildest form of punishment, a rebuke instructing him not to perform any more same-sex "marriages." It found him not guilty on the gay ordination charge, and ruled that the ordination of lay people at Mt. Auburn fell under the jurisdiction of the governing body of the local church.

But Van Kuiken refused to distinguish between same-sex "holy unions" and opposite-sex "marriages," because to do so "would be a form of lying," he said before the presbytery Monday.

"We have always seen them as essentially the same, and this is why we cannot pretend to do the kind of holy unions that are allowed," he said.

The outcome of the presbytery's vote sets a "serious" precedent, said Michael Adee, national field organizer for More Light Presbyterians, a gay advocacy group within the church.

"It could possibly discourage other pastors from even doing holy unions," Adee said.

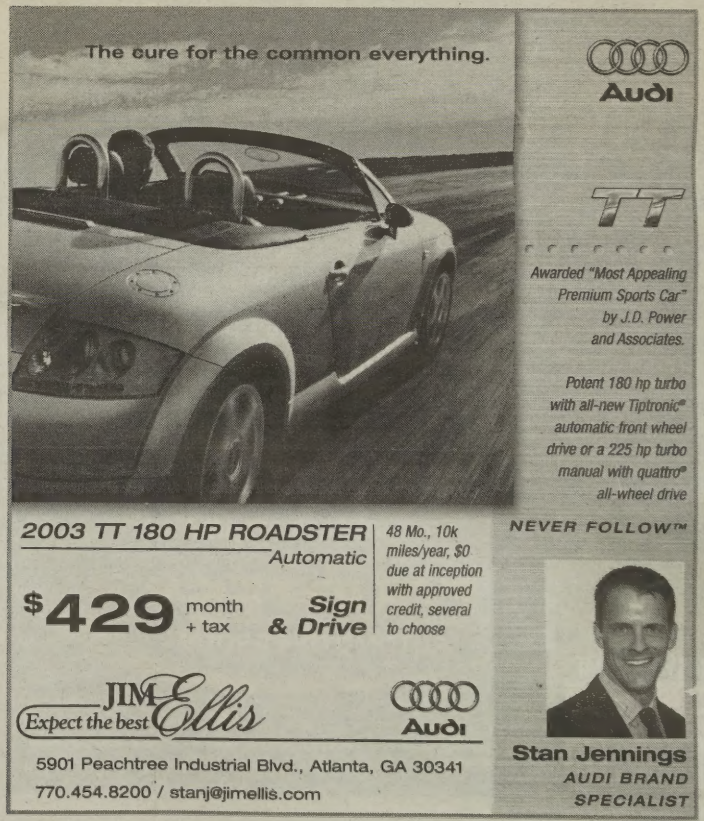
The removal wasn't necessary, and the gay-friendly pastor will be missed, he said.

"There is not a consensus with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Presbyterians, much less the gay community, that marriage is a priority or something we want," Adee said. "There were many persons who didn't want him to lose his ordination over this. The human casualty was great."

Members of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church prepared a financial package for Van Kuiken and his family and are working with an administrative commission from the Cincinnati Presbytery to hire an interim minister, according to a statement released by Mt. Auburn's session of elders.

The presbytery called the special session to decide Van Kuiken's fate in response to charges of heresy and blasphemy filed by Paul Rolf Jensen, a church activist from California who wants the church to crack down on those who disobey the Presbyterian constitution.

Jensen also filed the original charges that resulted in the first April ruling. He did not respond to interview requests.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national news

CDC threatens funding for Calif. AIDS program

Activist, congressman question effectiveness of Stop AIDS in San Francisco

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

In an apparent about-face, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta sent a letter June 13 to San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project cautioning the group to comply with federal funding guidelines that do not permit recipients to promote sexual activity.

If the group does not comply, CDC will pull its funding, according to the letter.

The letter Stop AIDS received provided three specific examples of programs targeted at gay men that violated the federal Public Health Service Act, which does not allow funding to "be used to provide education or information designed to promote or encourage, directly, homosexual or heterosexual activity."

Separate letters also went to the San Francisco Department of Public Health, which oversees activities at Stop AIDS, and to Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.), who since 2001 has funneled a steady stream of complaints filed by a gay AIDS activist about Stop AIDS through his office to the CDC.

"We are very pleased that the CDC will finally begin routinely assessing federal HIV prevention programs to ensure that they are effective in preventing HIV and STDs and comply with federal laws," Roland Foster, an aide to Souder, said this week.

But the letter to Souder, signed by CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding, contradicts a letter she sent to him four months ago that supported the programs at Stop AIDS. The letter sent in February stated that Stop AIDS prevention techniques were "in compliance" with current guidelines.

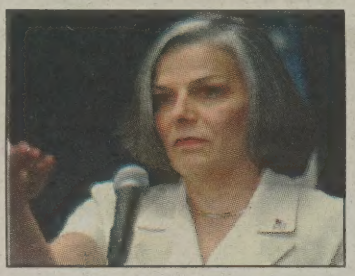
Souder and Michael Petrelis, the controversial AIDS activist who alerted Souder to Stop AIDS' programs, believe the effectiveness of current HIV prevention methods need to be assessed.

But Stop AIDS and the San Francisco Public Health Department contend that the CDC fell prey to pressure from a heightened conservative political environment that is taking aim at HIV and STD prevention organizations that frankly address gay sex.

"It is clear that this is not a political climate that supports an honest, open, and realistic discussion of sex, particularly sex between gay men, and it is having a chilling effect on the kind of research and grassroots organizing that is being done," said Shana Krochmal, spokesperson for Stop AIDS.

Too sexy for the feds

The CDC letters cited workshops titled "In Our Prime: Men for Hire," for older men to learn safety tips when dealing with escorts, "Bootylicious," a discussion on ways to improve anal sex and be safe, and "Oral Sex = Safe Sex?" for men to acquire new information on oral sex.



CDC Director **Dr. Julie Gerberding** sent a letter to Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.) June 13 that outlined her concerns with HIV prevention programs administered by the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. (Photo by AP)

"We don't think we are promoting sex," said Krochmal, spokesperson for Stop AIDS. "We are providing a forum for men who have already chosen to be sexually active."

But the CDC did not object to the content of the workshops, just the way Stop AIDS marketed the programs with titles that promote sexual activity, said Kathy Harben, CDC spokesperson.

"We're not saying it can't be discussed at all, but it can't be designed to promote sexual activity," Harben said.

Harben declined to go into specifics about how the titles appeared to violate the law.

Souder's office did not comment directly on the three controversial programs, instead saying that Stop AIDS has not proven its effectiveness because HIV infection rates are increasing despite the increased amount of funding for HIV prevention.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health stands by Stop AIDS' marketing strategies and claims the sexy titles encourage participation from a younger generation being infected with HIV at higher rates.

The CDC should not consider the racy programs when applying federal law because none of the three workshops in question are funded with CDC money, according to Krochmal and Jimmy Loyce, deputy director of health for AIDS programs in San Francisco's public health department.

City and state funds pay for the three programs that cost about $1,500, Loyce said.

The CDC grants an estimated $600,000 both directly and through the city to Stop AIDS for HIV prevention every year, Krochmal said.

Politics at play?

The current funding threat to Stop

Please see CDC FUNDS on Page 27

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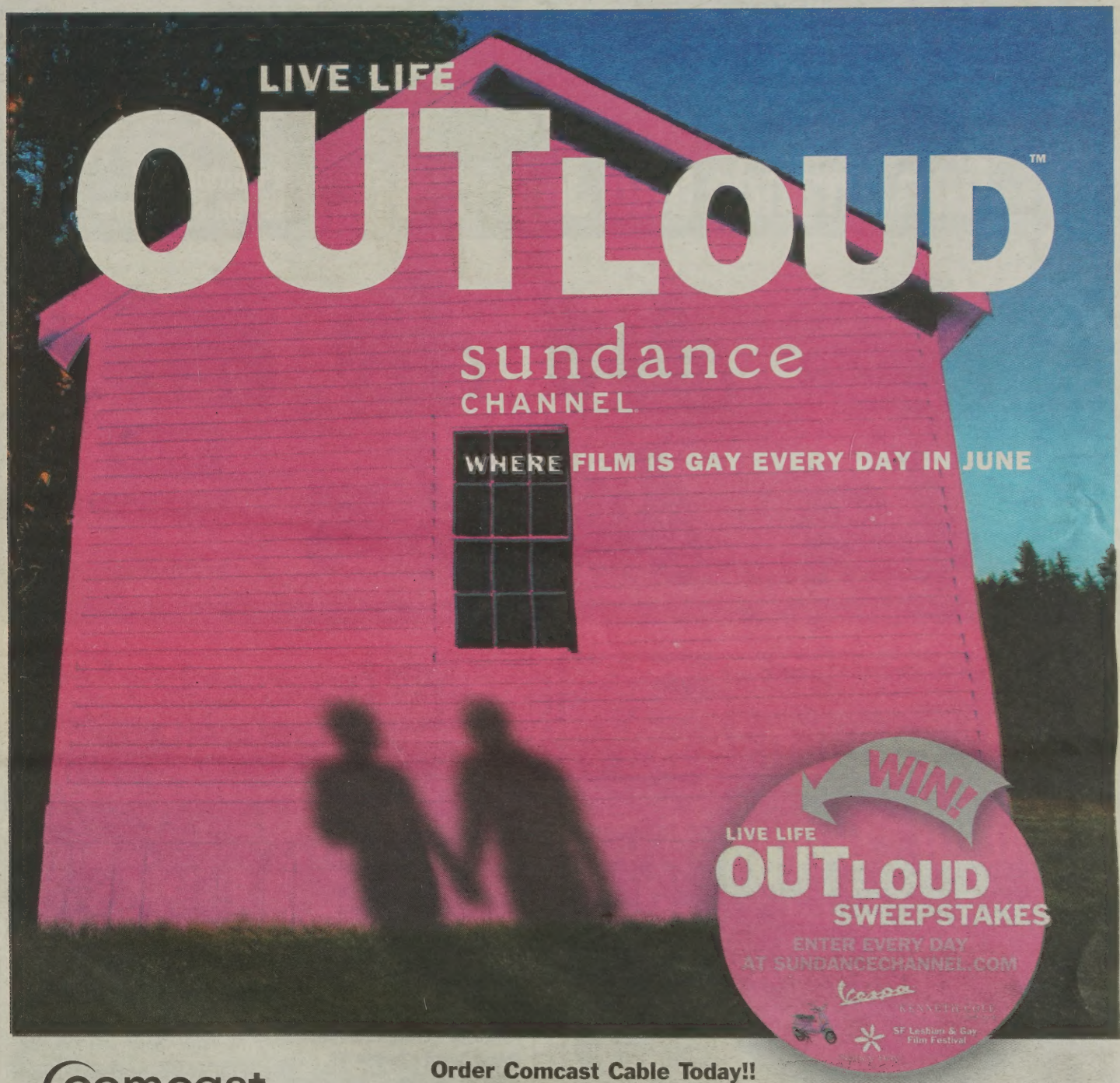

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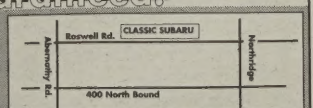

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national news

Hatch says hate crimes bill 'doable' in Senate

GOP lawmaker, once chief opponent, attends rally of bill's supporters

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

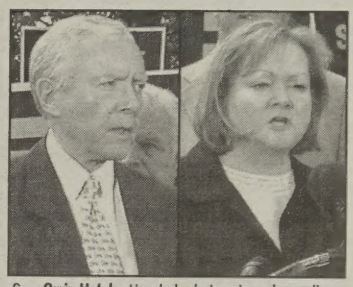
WASHINGTON — Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) on Tuesday told more than 100 supporters of a federal hate crimes bill outside the U.S. Capitol that he supports the bill's sexual orientation provision and would work to resolve his remaining objections to the legislation.

As Hatch spoke, dozens of gay activists and their supporters stood behind him carrying signs reading, "Stop the hate."

The legislation, S. 966, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2003, would authorize the federal government to prosecute hate crimes based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender and disability.

Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), the bill's chief sponsors, called Hatch's decision to attend the gathering a major breakthrough in their effort to secure the measure's passage. Hatch played the lead role in defeating the bill in a Senate vote last year.

He said then that Kennedy and other Senate Democrats refused to consider changes he suggested that would restrict the federal government's ability to override state and local prosecutors in cracking down on hate crimes.



Sen. **Orrin Hatch** attended a hate crimes law rally on Capitol Hill Tuesday. Also attending was **Judy Shepard**, the mother of gay-bashing victim Matthew Shepard.(Photos by AP)

But at Tuesday's rally, Hatch appeared to take a far more conciliatory stand, raising hopes among the bill's supporters that he and Kennedy would soon reach an agreement on the bill.

"I think we can solve this problem, I really do, if we work together," Hatch said.

Standing near Hatch as he spoke at the event, billed by organizers as "Rally Against Hate," was Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, who was killed in a hate crime five years ago. Also attending was Trev Broudy, a gay man who was critically injured in a 2002 gay-bashing incident in West Hollywood, Calif.

At a post-rally press conference, Hatch appeared to go a step further by chastising Republican leaders in the House for opposing the bill based on its sexual orientation provision.

"People have to grow up and realize that that's an important issue for many, many people in our society, and nobody should be discriminated against," Hatch said. "Hate crimes — we've got to work against them. It's just that simple."

In addition to Kennedy and Smith, other sponsors of the bill who spoke at the rally were Senators Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Arlen Specter (R-Penn.).

Hatch told the gathering that one of his remaining concerns was a provision authorizing the federal prosecution of hate crimes based on the victim's gender. That could open the way for federal prosecution of rape cases, which would be an infringement of local law enforcement powers, according to Hatch.

Kennedy and Smith said they were willing to work with Hatch to change the provision to limit its scope to gender-based hate crimes other than rape cases.

In his opposition to the Kennedy-Smith bill last year, Hatch cited two other provisions that he would not support. One would bar the use of the death penalty in certain hate crime-related murders. The other would allow the federal government to take over the prosecution of hate crimes from local authorities if local officials fail to "vindicate" the federal interest against hate-motivated violence.

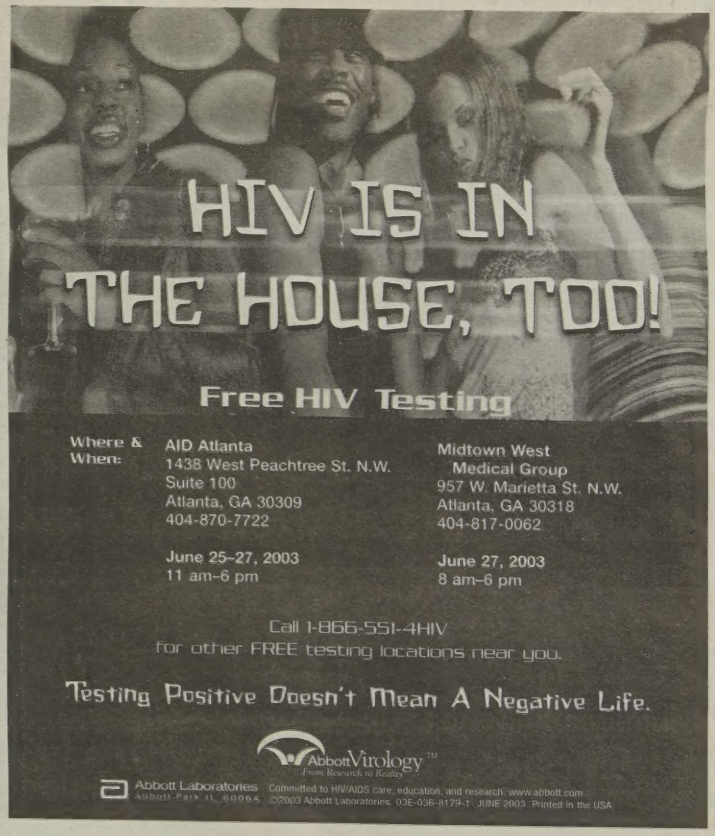
Hatch said the latter provision was too vague and would allow the federal government to usurp local law enforcement powers.

Gay activists have said the provision is needed to ensure that federal prosecutors could step in if local officials initiate an overly lenient or inadequate prosecution of a hate crime.

Hatch made no mention of these two issues during his comments at Tuesday's rally. But his conciliatory tone prompted Smith to predict that Hatch would soon agree to a compromise to enable the Senate to pass the bill. It currently has 49 co-sponsors, including Kennedy.

Supporters predicted at least 60 votes for the measure and said a Senate vote could come in September.

Hatch, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill, is considered one of the most prominent conservative Republican leaders in Congress. HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg said Hatch's support for an eventual compromise version of the bill would provide an enormous boost for the bill among Republicans, including House Republicans.



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national news

Log Cabin official linked to 'anti-Christian' Web site

UsQueers.com said to advocate murder of conservatives

By JOE CREA

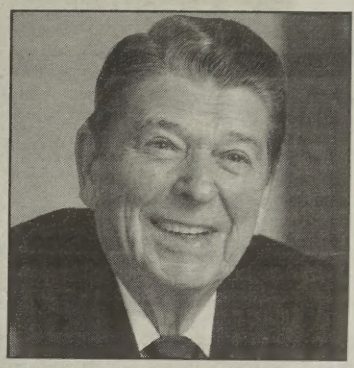
Peter LaBarbera, a conservative Christian leader, is demanding that the Log Cabin Republicans denounce the president of its Minnesota chapter, who he says is linked to a group that advocates the murder of Christian leaders including LaBarbera and politicians including former President Ronald Reagan.

Eva Young, president of the Minnesota Log Cabin Republicans, is a co-moderator of a Yahoo online discussion group associated with the now defunct Web site usQueers.com, which featured a "wanted" poster that called for "A Horrible Death by Any Means Soon" for "Well-Known Het [Heterosexual] Supremacists."

"I wanted to find out more about what was going on, so I joined the site's e-group," Young said. "I'm on a lot of different e-groups and forums. It doesn't mean I agree with the things people say or do."

LaBarbera said Young praised the Web site and noted that it had "personality," and he has called on Patrick Guerriero, LCR's executive director, to remove Young from her position.

"You can't say that you're the voice of moderation and look the other way when a leader is associating with this kind of a site," said LaBarbera, senior policy analyst for the Culture & Family Institute, an affiliate of Concerned Women for America. "My question is, does the LCR want to be associated with the extremists on their side?"



UsQueers.com, a now defunct Web site, claimed President **Ronald Reagan** was 'personally responsible for the long and torturous deaths of hundreds of thousands of gay men ... from AIDS.'

Mark Mead, political director for Log Cabin, a national gay GOP group, dismissed the controversy.

"We don't take direction from Peter LaBarbera," Mead said. "We are too busy with the AIDS bill and the Supreme Court ruling on sodomy laws that is going to change our lives. ... LaBarbera has his own issues to deal with."

In an e-mail sent to a freelance writer for the Culture and Family Report, usQueers.com Web master Bruce Allan Ross wrote that there never was a "connection" between Eva Young and usQueers.com.

"Most Republicans, Queer or het, couldn't even make it past the name of the Web site, if they happened upon it," Ross wrote.

Ross did not respond to an interview request from Southern Voice.

The Web site described LaBarbera as "a true bottom-feeder, a scum-sucking weasel who is obsessed with Queer sex beyond all reason, except where one watches him step on the bodies of those he kills with his lies in order to create his career as a Queer hater and hunter."

Other conservative leaders listed on the site included former Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), Revs. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, former Rep. J.C. Watts (R-Okla.), and former President Ronald Reagan.

The Web site launched in March 2001 and shut down by court order after Ross was sentenced in January 2002 for storming a Baptist church and threatening a church worker with a broken glass bottle.

Ross pleaded guilty to kidnapping charges and was sentenced to one year in jail.

The usQueers.com site featured a disclaimer saying that it did not "authorize, ratify or directly threaten acts of violence" toward those mentioned. But it also expressed hope to soon list personal information on the targeted individuals, including "home addresses, favorite hangouts, family members and details about automobiles..."

According to the Web site, Reagan was "personally responsible for the long and torturous deaths of hundreds of thousands of gay men ... from AIDS."

"There were some people I didn't think belonged on the Web site, like President Reagan," Young said. "Ronald Reagan was certainly not, in my opinion, ... anti-gay. A good example of that was when he was governor of California in 1978. He opposed an anti-gay referendum that would have banned gay teachers in the California Schools. That's not anti-gay."

Young added that the Web site was "over the top" and "crossed lines." She said that social conservatives have said and posted extreme things as well.

"If they are going to say outrageous things about gay people, then they should expect outrageous things said about them," Young said. "[Social conservatives] want to shut gay people up, but they want to be fine to be able to say whatever they want."

MORE INFO

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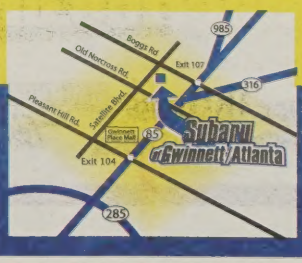

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national news

Philadelphia Boy Scouts expels gay member

Earlier decision to protect gays tied to United Way funding

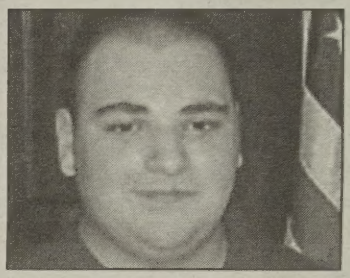
By JOE CREA

PHILADELPHIA — The nation's third largest Boy Scouts of America council, which defied national policy last month by voting to prohibit discrimination against gays, has reversed itself and officially ousted Greg Lattera, an 18-year-old gay scout.

The Cradle of Liberty Council, which boasts 87,000 members in Philadelphia, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania, agreed on May 29 to reject the BSA's national policy, which bars gays from participating in scouting, and to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy.

Roy L. Williams, chief scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America, wrote in a June 9 memo to scout executives in the Philadelphia area that the Cradle of Liberty Council's new policy was contrary to the national standards.

Williams' memo included a position statement from William T. Dwyer, chief executive officer of the Cradle of Liberty Council, explaining that the new non-discrimination disclosure was implemented to qualify for United Way funds for the BSA's non-membership program, "Learning for Life," and did not intend to override the national policy.



Greg Lattera thought it was safe to come out after his local Boy Scouts chapter said it would not discriminate against gays, but he was kicked out of the group shortly after acknowledging his sexual orientation. (Photo courtesy of NECIS)

As a result, Lattera, who announced he is gay at a Council press conference in late May, received a letter dated June 6 from Dwyer saying his registration was being revoked. According to Dwyer's letter, Lattera was given 60 days to contest the Council's decision to remove him.

Lattera could not be reached for comment by press time.

Some say the Cradle of Liberty Council has sent conflicting messages to donors and scouts in the Philadelphia area.

"All the local funders seemed to understand that the Cradle was bucking national policy and prepared to allow openly gay scout leaders," said Mark Noel, director of the New England Coalition for Inclusive Scouting. "That's the way it was made out to be."

Noel added that there was a lot of pressure from the BSA on the Cradle of Liberty Council, and that, according to Noel, the BSA "raked" Dwyer "over the coals."

"We know from internal sources that the BSA told Dwyer that there was no way he was going to implement this [policy]," Noel said. "[BSA] threatened to revoke the council's charter."

Dwyer did not respond to interview requests.

David H. Lipson Jr., board chair of the Cradle of Liberty Council, told Southern Voice in early June that he was not worried about his group's charter being revoked for its previous decision not to discriminate against gay scouts.

Christine James-Brown, president and CEO of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, said her organization has decreased funding to the Cradle of Liberty Council. The Council's "newly adopted" position had been in place for the past two years, she said.

"That's why we restrict our money to that program," James-Brown said. "We are a community organization and have a policy that says services should be provided in an inclusive way."

James-Brown said funding to the Cradle of Liberty Council was decreased in 2002. In 2001, the United Way allocated $520,000 to the council; that amount was reduced to $418,000 last year.

The Cradle's non-discrimination disclosure states that United Way funds are "restricted for use solely in support of the Council's urban-centered Learning for Life program and the career interest Exploring Program."

But Noel charged that the United Way money doesn't strictly go to the Learning for Life program.

James-Brown said that on an annual basis the United Way makes certain "that the dollars given are being spent as agreed to."

MORE INFO

Cradle of Liberty Council
Boy Scouts of America
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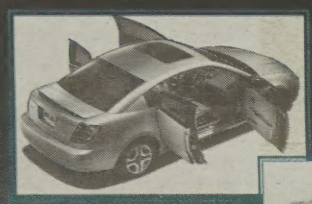

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national news

Activist lauds CDC overseeing agency effectivenes

CDC FUNDS, continued from Page 16

AIDS follows an investigation launched last summer to evaluate the scientific merit of Stop AIDS, and a 2001 report by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that said Stop AIDS' programs could be construed to encourage sexual activity and to be "obscene."

Gerberding launched the investigation last year partly in response to complaints received about Stop AIDS' HIV educational sessions, she wrote in a letter to Stop AIDS then.

At the time, Petrelis, who lives in San Francisco and is HIV-positive, had been lodging complaints about Stop AIDS for years with HHS, CDC, and the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee On Criminal Justice, Drug Policy & Human Resources. Souder chairs the subcommittee, according to Foster, his spokesperson.

Souder, named by critics as a leader in the conservative movement against Stop AIDS, followed procedure and began forwarding Petrelis' complaints to HHS and CDC when Petrelis grabbed Souder's attention in 2001, according to Foster.

The investigation last year, though, found Stop AIDS to be compliant with federal guidelines and the programs "based on current accepted behavioral science theories in the area of health promotion," Gerberding wrote in a Feb. 13 letter to Souder.

But Stop AIDS contends officials at the CDC buckled under political pressure and compromised scientific integrity because of the repeated requests by Souder's office to demand further proof of the group's effectiveness even after Gerberding's initial analysis.

"The science in question is being subjected to a number of political tests," Krochmal said. "We don't want to be in a position to choose between federal funding and being true to the community and what they need out of an HIV prevention agency."

CDC remains committed to ensuring the efficacy and compliance of federally funded HIV programs, but politics do come into play when making decisions, Harben said.

"It's a fact that elected officials are also an audience of ours," she said. "We consider their concerns as we consider other concerns brought to our attention, but the CDC remains committed to science."

Effective measure?

The day Souder received his letter from Gerberding was a landmark in the history of HIV prevention because it shows the federal government questioning the effectiveness of HIV prevention organizations, according to Petrelis, an activist known for his frequent criticisms of AIDS organizations.

"It's year 22 of the AIDS epidemic and the CDC is finally developing plans to measure effectiveness," he said.

The most recent letter to Souder

Staff members for Rep. **Mark Souder** (R-Ind.) were 'pleased' with CDC's crackdown on the Stop AIDS project in San Francisco. (Photo by Brian Tombaugh/AP)

assured him that the CDC is "developing plans to periodically review all grantees to assess their effectiveness."

Petrelis looks at the steps being taken by CDC as a way to hold AIDS groups accountable for the funds they receive, and not as a threat.

"I don't believe asking the CDC for proof of effectiveness with these groups should be in any way detrimental to them," he said. "Gay men should be asking the CDC for proof since so many of their programs affect us."

The federal government, not Stop AIDS, is responsible for providing the in-depth analysis that Souder and Petrelis demand, Loyce said.

"Until the federal government — without reducing the dollars to prevention services — is willing to pay for long term studies to determine the impact of HIV incidence and prevalence as a result of our prevention strategies, it is an unfunded mandate for them to say we need to do some long term studies of our own," he said.

'Whisper campaign'

Federal grants to research HIV prevention efforts might be hindered by a recent government "whisper campaign" to weed out grant proposals that use "key words" identified by scientists in the New York Times in April, according to Dr. Kenneth Haller, president of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association.

The New York Times article reported that several researchers who would not reveal their names received instructions from officials with the CDC and the National Institutes of Health to avoid "key words" on grant applications that include "men who sleep with men" and "anal sex."

"There is no paper trail, no e-mails or directives from government agencies," Haller said. "It is purely a whisper campaign, which makes it much more dangerous."

HHS denies the allegations made by the scientists.

"There is no such effort," said Bill Pierce, spokesperson for the federal agency.

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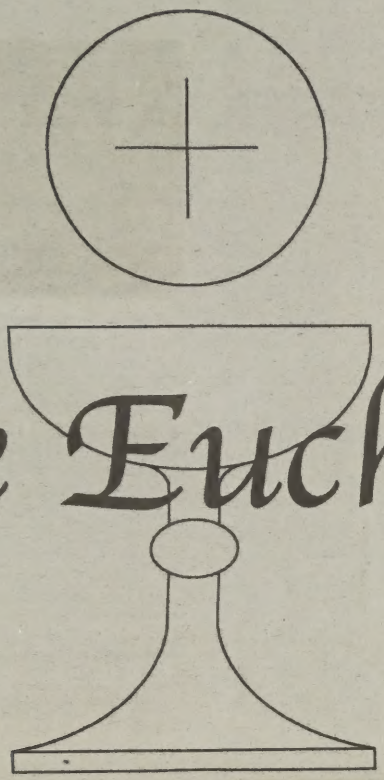

Pride Eucharist

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Will Preside

Dr. Louie Crew, Founder of Integrity
Will Preach

All Saints' Episcopal Church

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The Annual Pride Eucharist is sponsored by Integrity/Atlanta with Thanksgiving for our LGBT brothers and sisters of every faith

Safe haven for homeless with HIV

Jerusalem House expands services to include 'scattered site' program

By VAN GOWER

WHEN WILLIS BIVINS LOST HIS job last year, he found himself in a financial crisis. When that escalated into a housing crisis, Bivins, who is gay and HIV positive, turned to Jerusalem House.

"I didn't know a whole lot about it. I was, however, in rather financial destitution," Bivins said. "I was living in another Midtown area where I was paying a lot more rent. I lost my job earlier last year, because I work in the travel industry, and it suffered a big blow after 9-11 and the economic situation."

Bivins' unexpected financial downturn forced him to seek assistance, and his search led him to the Living Room, a local organization on Ponce De Leon Avenue that refers homeless and low-income clients to housing options.

"I was really lucky to run into the people with Jerusalem House, through the Living Room," Bivins said. "They took an interest in seeing if they could find me some other housing. From there, I applied, qualified, and moved in. I'm in a much, much better situation now."

Atlantans with HIV or AIDS who are homeless or at risk of being homeless can come home to Jerusalem House. In March, Bivins became a resident in the agency's new Scattered Site Program, which houses clients in private apartments instead of together in one facility.

Residents of Jerusalem House programs aren't required to work, but the staff does expect residents to make an effort to maintain their health, stay drug free and do everything within their capabilities to stay productive, Bivins said.

"They want to help people who are helping themselves," he said.

Caseworkers and Jerusalem House staffers visit residents, check on their health status and help identify resources that are available for them.

"They're interested in your T-cell count and your viral load," Bivins said. "They want documentation that you're keeping your doctor visits, and to know if you're improving or getting worse."

The attention is supportive, not invasive, he said.

"Their surveillance is not overwhelming," he said. "They do respect your privacy. They just like to know that you're functional and maintaining decent health."

JERUSALEM HOUSE WAS STARTED in 1988, when a group of community leaders from business, religious, civic and medical sectors joined forces to come up with a response to the increasing number of people who were both HIV-positive and homeless.

The leaders' idea was to create a residential facility where homeless people with AIDS could live in peace and safety. In fact, the word "Jerusalem" was chosen for the organization's name because it means "dwelling of peace," according to Martha Reich, development director for Jerusalem House.

A large funding campaign raised start-up capital, and ongoing operational revenue comes from three sources: government bodies, public and private corporations and individuals.

"Anyone can give to Jerusalem House, and we certainly welcome it," Reich said.

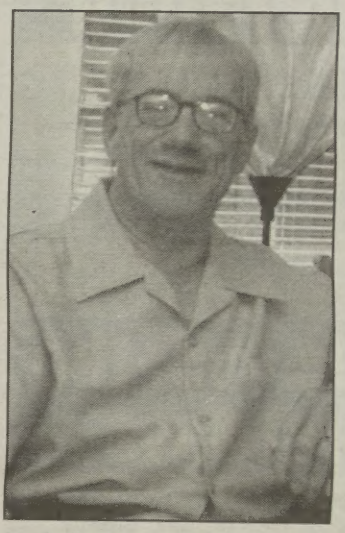
The original Jerusalem House opened in 1989 and was located in the Druid Hills/Virginia Highlands neighborhood. It first served five and currently houses 23 people with AIDS.

Potential residents must be referred to Jerusalem House through the Living Room. Jerusalem House has three programs for residents: the Program for Adults, where the resident must have full blown AIDS; the Family Program, for single mothers and their children, where the mother must be HIV-positive; and the new Scattered Site Program, where residents must be HIV-positive.

THE SCATTERED SITE PROGRAM, which has been in operation since February of this year, currently maintains 32 efficiency apartments in Fulton and DeKalb counties. It will be able to house a total of 42 residents when fully operational in August.

Housing at the central facility is more communal, but the Scattered Site Program offers a different atmosphere.

"In our scattered site housing, there is a greater level of independence for the adult that is infected," Reich said. "But we would never move someone there if they weren't ready for it."



Jerusalem House's new Scattered Site Program found a home for **Willis Bivins**, who is gay and HIV-positive, when he faced a housing crisis after losing his job. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The facilities don't offer medical or hospice care, but "we can assist through caseworkers and community collaboration and help identify where there might be hospice care," she said.

If a resident's health downgrades or deteriorates while living at Jerusalem House, it does not mean abandonment.

"For many of our residents, Jerusalem House will be their final home. We provide permanent housing," Reich said. "We're their family at that point."

Willis attests to that.

"They're very supportive," he said. "They have been just wonderful people. I've just been inspired by how nice they've been to me."

MORE INFO

Jerusalem House
100 Edgewood Ave. NE
404-524-7627
www.jerusalemhouse.org

The Living Room
341 Ponce De Leon Ave.
404-616-6332

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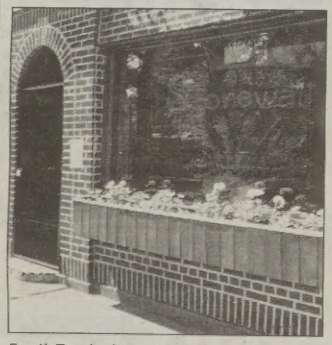

Fourth Tuesday honors Pride Week with '**After Stonewall**,' a film about gay life from the 1969 riots to the end of the 20th century, at 6:30 p.m. on June 24 at Sheraton Buckhead Hotel Atlanta, 3405 Lenox Road, NE. 770-662-4353, www.fourthtuesday.org/preregister.html

MONDAY JUNE 23

NEST EGG: Indigo Girl Emily Saliers and Q100's Melissa Carter host '**Rainbow: The Loudest Silent Auction on Earth**,' as a fund-raiser for CHRIS Rainbow Home from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Park Tavern, 500 10th St., NE. 404-486-9034, x104, www.chrishomes.org

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

PLANNING PARENTHOOD: Charis Circle and the Feminist Women's Health Center sponsor a discussion of legal and emotional issues for current and future **gay parents** at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org, www.fwhc.org

THURSDAY JUNE 26

HISTORICAL REFERENCE: WABE 90.1 FM radio airs a one-hour forum from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the **gay history of Atlanta** over the past four decades. 678-686-0321, www.wabe.org

TRANS TALK: Transgendered lesbian Shelly Emerson and transgendered man Raja host '**Getting to Know Transgendered People**' at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

FRIDAY JUNE 27

QUEER COOKOUT: Shop a yard sale and buy some burgers from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help raise funds for Atlanta's Gay & Lesbian Center, 170 11th St., NE. 404-874-9890, www.aglc.org

PRIDE ARRIVES: The three-day Atlanta Pride celebration officially kicks off with music and vendors in Piedmont Park. Other Friday night events include an AIDS vigil in Piedmont Park and a public commitment ceremony at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel. Pride events continue through Sunday. 404-929-0071, www.atlantapride.org

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. . . and more

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The U.S. Supreme Court will decide Lambda Legal's case which will directly affect the rights and lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people for years to come as it decides whether or not to uphold Texas's "Homosexual Conduct Law," outlawing sex between couples of the same gender. Courts and legislators around the nation have used laws like this as the excuse to deny us a whole host of rights, making whether or not the court upholds the Texas law critical to our civil liberties.

ALL who support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered people's freedom are asked to join either . . .

a PROTEST or a CELEBRATION

6 pm at 10th & Piedmont, Atl.

on the evening* of the Supreme Court's decision

We will either **PROTEST** the court's decision if they insult our humanity by upholding Texas's bigoted law, or we will **CELEBRATE** the defeat of this hateful legislation. Either way, we call on all fair-minded Atlanta-area individuals and organizations to make a public commitment to attend this action. Please go to **www.CABN.org/DefendOurRights** to pledge your support. For detailed background on the case, go to **LambdaLegal.org/Making History**

Event hosted by Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office

Info: Asha Leong, Lambda Legal, 404.897.1880, Aleong@LambdaLegal.org

* We do not know the date, although it almost definitely will be announced in the morning on a Monday in June. Listen to the news each morning, and please attend this event the evening of the Court's announcement.

Later donated

spiritual resources

BAPTIST

OAKHURST BAPTIST CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3677. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

CATHOLIC

CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri. 12:10 p.m. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866, www.catholicshrineatlanta.org

ST. MICHAEL THE DEFENDER CATHOLIC CHURCH. Non-Roman parish. Sunday mass 9:30 a.m. 1071 Delaware Ave. SE. 404-627-7212, www.stmichaelatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL. Sundays, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835, www.allsaintsatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY. Sundays, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338, info@epiphany.org

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. The gay ministry of the Episcopal Church. Third Fridays, 7 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183, integrityatlanta@yahoogroups.com

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Wednesdays 12:10 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 1790 LaVista Road. 404-634-3336, www.stbartsatlanta.org

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. May 25 — Aug. 31 Sundays, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Sundays 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., & 6 p.m. 435 Peachtree St. NE 404-873-7600, www.stlukesatlanta.org

ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sundays, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

JEWISH

CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM. Fourth Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 6:30 p.m. All other Fridays, Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054, www.congregationbethaverim.org

LUTHERAN

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sunday 10 a.m. 3264 Northside Parkway NW. 404-237-4413, www.stlukeatlanta.org

METHODIST

INMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:55 a.m. 404-522-9322

SAINT MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Wednesday dinner 6:00 p.m., program. 6:45 p.m.; Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. 781 Peachtree St. NE. 404-873-2636, www.stmarkumc.org

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:45 a.m. 265 Washington Street SW. 404-659-6236

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)

ALL SAINTS MCC. Sundays, 10:50 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m. 2352 Bolton Road N.W. 404-605-7140. www.allsaintsmcc.com

CHRIST COVENANT MCC. Sundays 11 a.m.; Wednesday, choir practice 7 p.m.; Thursdays, karate classes 7 p.m.109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933, www.christcovenantmcc.org

FIRST MCC OF ATLANTA. Sundays 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7 p.m., choir rehearsal 7 p.m., orchestra 7:30 p.m. 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com

MCC AUGUSTA. Sundays, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 311 7th Street, Augusta. 706-722-6454

OUR HOPE MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. 706-202-3723

TRUTH CENTER MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets at Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger facility, 9 Gammon Ave. I-85 at Virginia Ave. exit. 770-951-1380, truthcentermcc@bellsouth.net

PRESBYTERIAN

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 p.m. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253, cliftonchurch@mindspring.com, www.nighthospitality.net

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 p.m. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591, www.dhpc.org

NACOOCHEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 10 a.m. 260 Hwy. 255 North, Sautee-Nacooche. 706-878-2226, www.nacoocheepresbysterian.org

ORMEWOOD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Educational opportunities, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Monthly upper at 6 p.m., third Sunday.1071 Delaware Ave. SE, Atlanta. www.ormewoodparkpres.org. 404-627-2216

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, DAHLONEGA. Sundays, 11 a.m. 439 South Park Street. 706 864-0661, www.gmuuc.org

MOUNTAIN LIGHT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ELLIJAY. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3423 Turniptown Road. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. A welcoming congregation. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW. 770-955-1408, www.nwuuc.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3501 Walton Way Extension, Augusta. 706-733-7939, www.uucsra.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH. Troup Square. Sundays, 11 a.m. 323 Habersham. Street, at East Macon & East Harris. 912-234-0980, www.jinglebellschurch.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 north access road). 404-634-5134. www.uuca.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GWINNETT COUNTY. Sundays, 11 a.m. 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. 770-717-7913, www.uucg.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MARIETTA. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 1240 Villa Rica Road. 770-528-9542, www.uucm.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION METRO ATLANTA NORTH. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 a.m. Summer 10:30 a.m. only June thru mid August. 11420 Crabapple Road., Roswell. 770-992-3949, www.uuman.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ATHENS. Sundays 11 a.m. 706-546-7914

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBUS. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1442 Double Churches Road, Columbus. 706-660-1442

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOD, SELF AND NEIGHBOR MINISTRIES. Sundays 1:30 a.m. An open and affirming ministry of the United Church of Christ. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-881-0880

PILGRIMAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Sundays 10 a.m. 3755 Sandy Plains Road., Marietta. 770-971-0007, www.pilgrimageucc.com

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Sundays 9 & 11 a.m. 2676 Clairmont Road. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505, www.central-ucc.org

UNITY

UNITY NORTH ATLANTA CHURCH. Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. For all religions, beliefs and life-styles. 4255 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta. 678-819-9100, www.unitynorth.org

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

UNITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST CHURCH. Sundays 3 p.m.. 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. 404-752-5030

CHRISTIAN OTHER

ANCHORED IN CHRIST MINISTRIES. Bible study, Sundays 9:30 a.m.. Worship, Sundays 11 a.m. Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. 3818 2nd Ave., Columbus. 706-653-1488. www.anchored-inchristministries.org

CIRCLE OF LOVE FELLOWSHIP OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 10 a.m.. Wednesdays, Bible study, 7:30 p.m. 778 Rays Road. Ste. 108. 770-469-6419

FAMILY OF GOD. Sundays, 6:30 p.m. 1442 Double Churches Road, Columbus. 706-681-5246. RevEm51@aol.com, http://hometown.aol.com/revem51/fogmcccolumbusgaindex.html

GENTLE SPIRIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Wednesday Bible study, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. 1561 McLendon Ave. 404-522-1444, www.gentlespirit.org

NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH. Sundays, 6 p.m. Atlanta's only gay and lesbian friendly Charismatic/Pentecostal church meets in Virginia-Highlands Baptist Church sanctuary. 404-881-6336, www.NewCovenantAtlanta.com

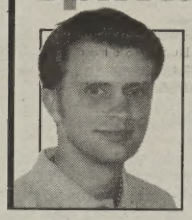
ST. BARNABAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 6:30 p.m. Last Sundays, potluck after services. 2020 Ingleside Ave. (behind Econo Lodge), Macon. 478-722-0057

STS. SERGIUS AND BACCHUS CHURCH. First Sunday, 3p.m. Meeting at Decatur First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur. 404-508-9128

VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CHURCH. A Baptist and United Church of Christ congregation. Sundays, Christian Education, 9:30 a.m. and Worship 11 a.m. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-873-1355, www.vhchurch.net

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

spirituality VAN GOWER



Pride **Eucharist for Human Rights** offers pause for spiritual reflection before whirlwind of parade and parties.

Spirit of Pride

AMID THE RAINBOW OF PARTIES, dancing and festival events that are the essence of next week's Atlanta Pride celebration, the annual Pride Eucharist offers the chance to nurture gay spiritual life.

Integrity Atlanta presents its Gay Pride Eucharist for Human Rights for the 15th year on June 26. Dr. Louie Crew, who is scheduled to preach at the service, sees the annual event as a time for people to come together.

"I think it's a celebration with the community more than ministering to it," Crew said. "It's fun to be able to extend any kind of hospitality we can. It's not like 'Let's go rescue the heathens.'"

Crew founded Integrity, an international organization that allows gay Episcopalians to network and share perspectives on their faith, in Ft. Valley, Ga., in 1974.

In addition to the more than 1,450 publications he has written and his elected membership in the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, Crew has participated in Pride celebrations in the United States throughout the years. He recently marched in the Pride parade in Burlington, Vt., and preached several services through that weekend.

"My first gay Pride parade was the second one ever held in Chicago, when I was there in the summer of 1975," Crew said. "It was a big celebration then but got much bigger as the years went on."

THERE IS A NEED FOR RELIGIOUS institutions to embrace gays and vice versa, Crew said.

"I have a lot of sympathy for those who feel hostility toward the Church," he said. "The Church has treated the gay and lesbian community very badly, and what we're hoping as people who are faithful Christians is to regress that."

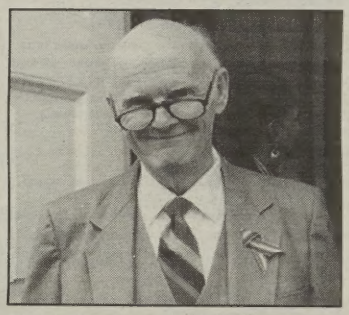
The Episcopal Church's official statement on homosexuality is clear, Crew said.

"Homosexual persons are children of God and are entitled to the full love, care and compassion of the Church," he said.

Crew said he is looking forward to speaking at the Pride Eucharist in Atlanta this year and offered clues to his sermon's content.

"I don't know what it will be yet because I'm still working on it," he said, "but I expect that the message will closely follow the lessons that have been chosen for that day. I don't usually choose my text beforehand. I will say, however, that it will be a message of joy and celebration and welcome."

The Pride Eucharist also welcomes Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta, to preside over the service.



Dr. Louie Crew, featured speaker for the 15th annual Eucharist for Human Rights, is a member of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and founded Integrity, an organization for gay Episcopalians. (Photo courtesy of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey)

"Bishop Alexander's presence increases the welcome," crew said. "He could have merely sent a message, but to have him there and celebrating with us is to convey a message to those gathered at the Eucharist that the whole Diocese sends a welcome."

THERE ARE STILL PROGRESSIVE strides to make in all denominations' acceptance of gay ministers and members, but the Episcopal Church is no stranger to gays in its ranks, Crew said.

But gays continue to face inequities in both the Church and society as a whole, including the denial of legal marriage rights, Crew said. He and his partner, Ernest Clay, united in 1974 after meeting during a visit to Atlanta.

"The Church is closely embedded with the state and it's authorized by the state to be an agent in the institution of marriage," Crew said. "I wish the Church would get out of the marrying business, but since it does have that authority ... expectations have more than a little influence by the Church."

MORE INFO

Gay Pride Eucharist for Human Rights
June 26, 7:30 p.m.
All Saints' Episcopal Church
634 West Peachtree St.
404-892-3143
www.allsaintsatlanta.org
www.integrityusa.org

Celebrate Pride 2003 with Congregation Bet Haverim and The Rainbow Center

artfest·fundraiser

Sunday, June 22, 12 NOON–6 P.M.
- Arts and crafts, entertainment, food, friends and fun!
- 743 Virginia Avenue N.E., Virginia Highlands Church fellowship hall
- For more information: 404. 885. 9776, www.therainbowcenter.org

pride seder

Friday, June 27, 6:30 P.M.
- Vegetarian potluck meal at Druid Hills United Methodist Church fellowship hall, Briarcliff Road at Ponce de Leon Avenue
- R.S.V.P. 404. 607. 0054

The Rainbow Center
A Jewish response to gay, lesbian, bisexual, trangender people and their families, providing support, information and resources

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community calendar

SATURDAY JUNE 21

ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES. Group potluck at 7:30 p.m., visit Web site for location info. www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

CHARIS CIRCLE. Stories for Free Children, celebrating diversity, at 11 a.m. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

NORTHLAKE ALLIANCE OF GAYS/LESBIANS & STRAIGHTS. Potluck dinner at 7 p.m. Contact NAGS for location info. 404-327-9633, www.geocities.com/nagsatlanta

YOUTH PRIDE. Car wash and BBQ fundraiser for a $10 donation from 12-4 p.m. in parking lot behind Blake's On The Park and Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

ONGOING EVENTS

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 p.m. Presbyterian student center. Athens, GA. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, with potluck dinner. 7 p.m. 770-457-5264, lambdagroup@msn.com

MIDTOWN ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am-4 p.m. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Drive. 770-913-3978

NORTH ATLANTA OWLS. Older wiser lesbians (50 +) meet for fun and friendship. Locations and activities vary. Mfinatlanta@yahoo.com

NORTHLAKE ALLIANCE OF GAYS/LESBIANS & STRAIGHTS. Monthly potluck dinner at 7 p.m. Rotating locations, contact for info. 404-327-9633, www.geocities.com/nagsatlanta

SUNDAY JUNE 22

ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES. General meeting and video night at 7:30 p.m., contact for location. www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

CHARIS CIRCLE. Women Writers Group presents 'When I Was A Womanchild' at 5 p.m. $10/adv., $15/door. at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Drive NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

RAINBOW CENTER. Art & Food Fest Benefit includes live jazz from 12-6 p.m. at Virginia Highland Church, 743 Virginia Ave. NE. 404-888-9776, www.therainbowcenter.org

ONGOING EVENTS

AIDS SURVIVAL PROJECT. 20 percent of food sales at Tijuana Garage from 4-11 p.m. go to AIDS Survival Project. Through July 27. Tijuana Garage, 353 Moreland Ave. 404-874-7926, x16, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. Non-auditioned. Celebrating strength & diversity in women through music. 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4-6 p.m. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

CHARIS CIRCLE. Gaia Collective, a women's circle of sharing & discussion for all ages. Bring a potluck dish. 6 p.m. Charis Books And More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 2 p.m. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, and dining-out. Time varies. 770-457-5264, lambdagroup@msn.com

PFLAG. Regular meeting. 2:45-5 p.m. Cathedral of St. Phillip, 2744 Peachtree Road. 770-662-6475, www.pflagatl.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. Healing touch and polarity therapies. 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Call to sign up for free sessions. 404-257-1843, www.uuca.org

MONDAY JUNE 23

CHRIS RAINBOW HOME. "Rainbow: The Loudest Silent Auction on Earth" fundraiser, with hosts Emily Saliers and Melissa Carter, from 7-10 p.m. Open bar, entertainment, and food. Tickets $50. Park Tavern, 500 10th St. NE. 404-486-9034, x104, www.chrishomes.org

ONGOING EVENTS

HOTLANTA SQUARES. Beginner classes in high-energy square dancing. No dress code, no pressure, and no dance partner or experience necessary. 7-10 p.m. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta, hotlantasquares@aol.com

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 p.m. UGA's LGBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. Athens, GA. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

TUESDAY JUNE 24

FOURTH TUESDAY. Celebrate the history of gay pride with the film 'After Stonewall' and discussion with Dr. Saralyn Chestnut beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Buckhead, 3405 Lenox Road. NE. Admission varies, contact for info. 770-662-4353, www.fourthtuesday.org

ONGOING EVENTS

CHARIS CIRCLE. Weekly meeting of high school age women writers. 5-6:30 p.m. Charis Books And More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

GEORGIA DYKES ON BIKES. 7 p.m. No rules. No drama, Freedom to be. Cowtippers, GeorgiaDOB@aol.com or www.georgia.dykesonbikes.org

RAINBOW CENTER MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Gay or bisexual men. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

RAINBOW GRINGOS. Gringo's Mexican Cantina donates 20 percent of sales to CHRIS Rainbow Home. Every Tuesday.1238 DeKalb Ave. 404-522-8666

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

CHARIS CIRCLE. Discussion program about issues of importance to gay and lesbian parents at 7:30 p.m. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

YOUTH PRIDE. Pride sign and decoration making party from 7-8 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

ONGOING EVENTS

OUR SONG 7:15– 9:15 p.m. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Rehearsal, First Existentialist Congregation Church, 470 Candler Park Drive. 404-222-0443, oursongatlanta@aol.com

RAINBOW CENTER WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-8:30 p.m. For lesbians, bisexual, and questioning women. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

THURSDAY JUNE 26

CHARIS CIRCLE. Meet lesbian transwoman Shelly Emerson for 'Getting to Know Transgendered People' at 7:30 p.m. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

PRIDE EUCHARIST. 15th Annual service sponsored by Integrity/Atlanta at 7:30 p.m., at All Saints Episcopal Church, 634 West Peachtree St. Contact Bruce Garner at 404-892-3143, www.allsaintsatlanta.org

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

BOYTALK: 6:30-8 p.m. 18-24. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 p.m. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

GEORGIA LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS. 7 p.m. Park Tavern, 10th and Monroe at Piedmont Park. 770-521-8315, www.lcrga.com

GET YOUR LIFE. 12-4 p.m. For young black gay and bisexual men. Georgia State, Dorchester Room. 44 Courtland St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

LAGENDER INC. 6-7:30 p.m. Transgender/Transsexual support group in collaboration with Aniz Inc. 223 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644

LATINO GROUP. 6:30-8 p.m. All ages. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-378-7722

LESBIAN READING GROUP. 404-467-4278

WOMYN'S GROUP. 6:30-8 p.m. Ages 18-24. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

FRIDAY JUNE 27

ATLANTA GAY & LESBIAN CENTER. Yard sale and cookout from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 170 11th St. NE. 404-874-9890, www.aglc.org

CHARIS CIRCLE. The "Coff-E" series presents an evening of African-American performance poetry at 7:30 p.m. at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Drive

YOUTH PRIDE. Pride teen dance, ages 13 to 17, from 8-11 p.m. for $3 at Blu, 960 Spring St. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

GLBTQ PROM. The gay prom you never had, complete with kings and queens, sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta. Tickets $25-$40, dance from 8 p.m. – 2 a.m. at Studio Plex, 659 Auburn Ave. 770-469-0332, www.unityfellowshipofatl.org

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. Rehearsal 7-9 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666, www.afmb.org

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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Friday, June 27, 5 – 8pm

In celebration of "Freedom to Be" Pride Week, Art 101 will feature affordable Homo-erotic art by local artists.

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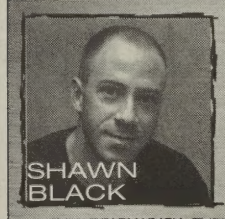

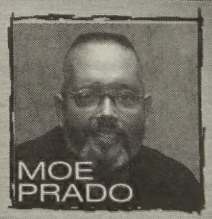

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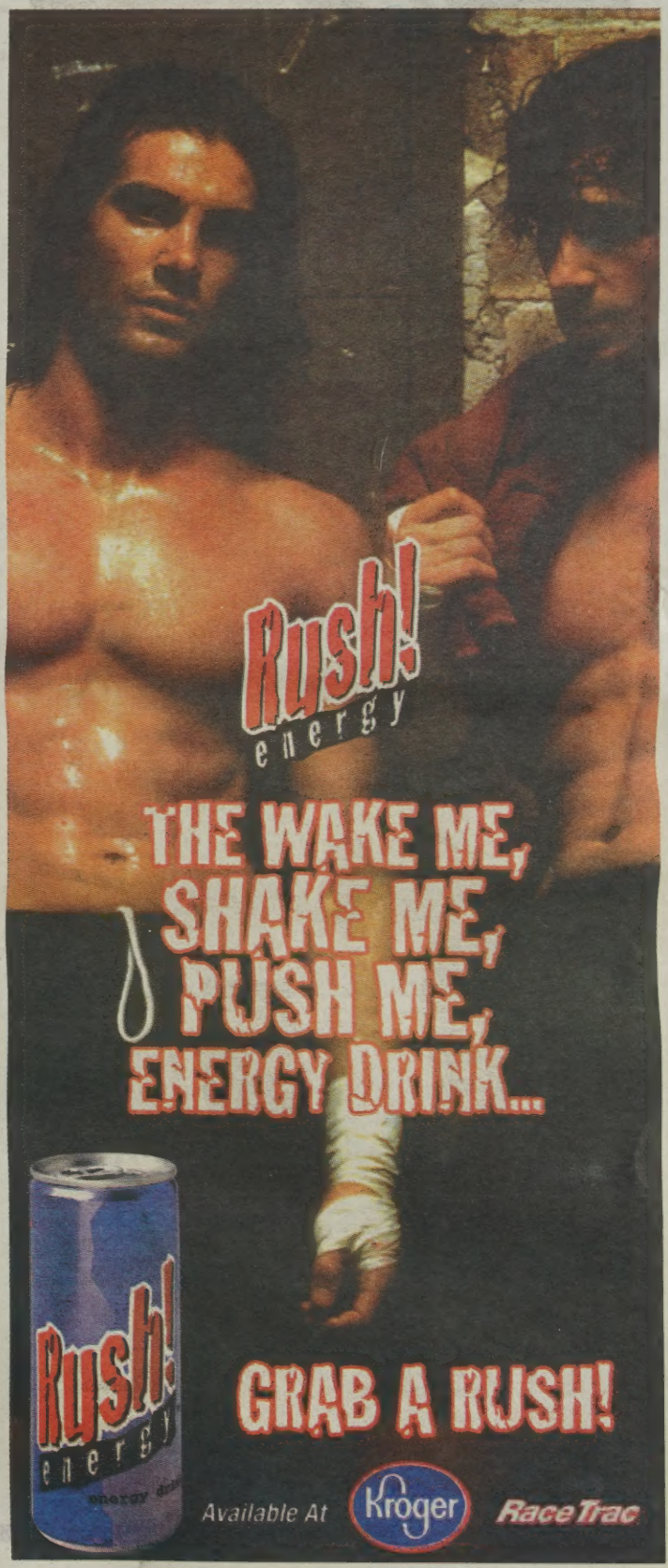

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Where the Spirit of God is Being Poured Out Upon All People (Acts 2:17).

Do you like *Gospel Music?*

Then Plan to Come to
New Covenant Church of Atlanta
On Sunday, June 29, 2004 at 6 PM.
We will be hosting a Community-wide Gospel Sing to close out the Pride weekend.

The Gospel Sing will be held at 743 Virginia Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306, within 1/2 mile of Piedmont Park (walking distance from the park).

For more information contact Pastor Randy Morgan at (404) 881-6336 or through the Website: www.NewCovenantAtlanta.com.

New Covenant Church of Atlanta welcomes and affirms ALL People regardless of age, race, gender, and/or sexual orientation.

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health resources

THIS WEEK

AID ATLANTA. 'AIDS 101 Action and Awareness Seminar' from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., $20, at Clayton College and State University, 5900 North Lee St., Morrow. 404-870-7742, www.aidatlanta.org

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE and other lesbian groups present Dr. Kate O'Hanlan discussing the health of lesbians 40 and up, from 7-9 p.m. on June 20, at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Drive NE. 404-688-2524, www.alci.org

HEPATITIS C MEETING. Health professionals and concerned persons gather for a Hepatitis C and Advocacy Working Group kick-off meeting on June 24 at 6 p.m., in the 3rd floor conference room at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1561 McLendon Ave. NE. 404-526-9222, www.atlantaharmreductioncenter.org

WOMEN'S HEALTH LUNCH & LEARN. "Atlanta Woman" magazine presents lunch and a panel of health experts on June 26 discussing hormone replacement therapy, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (seats $40 each), at Maggiano's Little Italy, 3368 Peachtree Road NE. 404-760-1218

ALCOHOL RECOVERY/SUPPORT

AL-ANON. Weekdays, 12-1 pm. Gay-friendly Galano Club, 585 Dutch Valley Way, 404-685-9040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, corner Woodland & Delaware Aves. 404-627-2216. 8 pm. Georgia Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

CANCER SUPPORT

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Every other Tuesday, 7 p.m. Call to schedule pre-interview. 404-688-2524

HIV & STD TESTING/TREATMENT

AID ATLANTA. Oral HIV tests. Fridays 4 pm – midnight. 404-870-7763, www.aidatlanta.org

AIDGWINNETT. Free no needles HIV testing, 9 am – 7 pm on Tuesday, 9 am – 5 pm on Thursday. 725 Scenic Hwy., Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 23. spencerk@aidgwinnett.org

FREE COUNSELING & HIV-ANTIBODY TESTS. Mon-Fri 9:30am-7pm. Sat 9am-1pm. Our Common Welfare. 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515, www.ourcommonwelfare.com

FREE CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING. HIV testing at YouthPride. 5:30-6:30 pm Wed. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-7722

FREE HIV TESTING. Rapid results testing Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Thursdays, 9-5 pm. 550 Peachtree St., Suite 1060. Schedule appointment, 404-249-9244

ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING. Mon-Thur, 12-8 pm. AID Atlanta, 1438 W. Peachtree St. Suite 100. 404-870-7700, www.aidatanta.org/hivtest.htm,

HIV SUPPORT/PREVENTION

AIDS 101. AID Atlanta seminar offers more than 20 different sessions on HIV/AIDS throughout year on social and medical issues. Volunteers wanted. 404-870-7742, aids101@aidatlanta.org

DOUBLE TROUBLE IN RECOVERY. People living with HIV and suffering mental health and/or substance abuse problems. Drop-in. Wednesdays 7-8 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Suite 605. 404-589-9040, x 500, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

ENTRE HISPANOS. Hispanic men and women with HIV. Drop-in. Wednesdays10:30 am – 12 pm. Ponce de Leon Center, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave, room 423. 404-589-9040, x 516 , www.positiveimpact-atl.org

ENTRE HISPANOS. Hispanic men with HIV. Drop-in. Wednesdays 4-5 pm. Positive Impact. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 605. 404-589-9040, x 516, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

FIRST FEW YEARS. Managing HIV in your life. Pre-registration required. Thursdays 5:30- 7 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Suite 605. 404-589-9040, x 507, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP. Drop-in. Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill, Suite 605. 404-589-9040, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

HOME BUT NOT ALONE. House-sharing for people with HIV/AIDS. 770-395-2546, www.atlantajcc.org/HBNA.htm

LIVING WELL WITH HIV. For long-term survivors. Pre-registration required. Mondays 7-9 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Suite 605. 404-607-8800, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

LONG TERM SURVIVORS. People infected with HIV for 5 years or more. Pre-registration required. Tuesdays 7-8:00 pm.. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill, Suite 605. 404-636-6607, x 4, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

POSITIVELY LIVING. Support group for people in all stages of HIV. Drop-in. Mondays 8-9:30 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Suite 605. 404-589-9040, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

PROJECT OPEN HAND. Volunteers needed to deliver meals to homebound people with AIDS and other critical illnesses in the Atlanta area. 404-872-2707, www.projectopenhand.org

RISK REDUCTION. Substance abuse and compulsive sexual behavior prevention exploration. Drop-in. Thursdays 7-8:30 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Suite 605. 404-373-4365, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

RYAN WHITE FUNDS AVAILABLE. Money is available to AIDS organizations in the 20-county Metro area. 404-893-0791

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900, www.naesmonline.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Peachtree Hospice. Contact Janice Hunter at 770-698-8785, www.beverlyenterprisesinc.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Pediatric playroom at Grady Infectious Disease Program. Contact Kim Price-Evans, 404-870-7808, www.aidatlanta.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Clerical and support volunteers need at AID Atlanta. Call Tim for details, 404-870-7742

WOMEN'S ISSUES GROUP. Women supporting each other in HIV management and other life issues. Pre-registration required. Tuesdays 5:30-7 p.m. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th floor. 404-589-9040, www.positiveimpact-atl.org

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

MIDTOWN WEST MEDICAL
AT KING PLOW ARTS CENTER

.Kimball A. Johnson, MD
Gloria J. Carusi, RN, Nurse Practitioner
Suzanne Combs, RN

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James Dustin, Massage Therapist, CMT, NMT

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Midtown West Medical
Health Fair
Friday, June 27
Join us for FREE health screenings
and meet our team!
For details, visit our website at
www.midtownwestmedical.com

King Plow Arts Center BLDG. 949, Suite 100 (Entrance #7)
957 W. Marietta Street NW / Atlanta, Ga 30318
Phone: 404.817.0062 / Fax: 404.817.0064

Lambda Legal
seeks
Legal Director

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., a national non-profit LGBT and HIV/AIDS civil rights organization, seeks a Legal Director to be based in its New York City Headquarters.

The Legal Director is a member of the senior management team and will provide leadership and coordination in the planning and vision for the department and organization. Responsibilities include supervising senior attorneys, coordinating joint program planning and work with the Education and Public Affairs Department, budgeting, and working with other legal LGBT organizations. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 7-10 years civil rights litigation experience and excellent management and organizational skills. (See "Jobs" at www.lambdalegal.org for details).
Salary: DOE, plus excellent benefits package.

Cover letter and resume by July 11, 2003 to Mr. Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director, Lambda Legal, 120 Wall St., Suite 1500, NY, NY 10005. Fax: 212/809-0055

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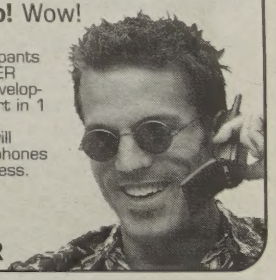
The Linguistic Data Consortium at the University of Pennsylvania (WWW.LDC.UPENN.EDU) needs participants for FISHER, a new telephone speech study. The FISHER project will support linguistic research, technology development and education. FISHER participants will take part in 1 to 3 telephone calls talking for ten minutes to other participants on suggested topics. A robot operator will initiate all calls. Participants need only answer their phones at the times they specify during the registration process.

To register call:
1-800-380-PENN or
WWW.LDC.UPENN.EDU/FISHER



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Contributors MICHAEL ALVEAR, JEN CHRISTENSEN, MERYL COHN, JIM FARMER, MATT FORKE, J.S. HALL, JONATHAN LERNER, PAIGE PARVIN, JOE PHILLIPS, DREW PLANT, KEVIN RIORDAN, BILL ROUNDY, JASON VICTOR SERINUS, BRIAN SUBER, ARJAN TIMMERMANS, STEVE WARREN
Illustrators ALISON BECHDEL, DAVID BRADY, ERIC ORNER, RON WILLIAMS
Production Manager JOHN NAIL EXT. 16
Graphic Designers
IRMA ALLEN EXT. 17
MATT BURKHALTER EXT. 28
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Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN 202-797-7000

SALES & ADMINISTRATION
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ADDRESS: 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D
Atlanta, GA 30306
PHONE: 404-876-1819
FAX: 404-876-2709
E-MAIL: editor@sovo.com
INTERNET: www.sovo.com
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guest editorial

First they came for the Muslims

Why should gays fret over the fate of pious Muslims who overstayed their visas and are about as likely as Jerry Falwell to embrace our cause? We could be the **next scapegoats.**

By ADELE M. STAN

FOR ATTORNEY GENeralJohn Ashcroft, it's been a busy couple of weeks.

First, there was the matter of defending his Department of Justice after his own inspector general released a report taking the agency to task for its roundup and long detention of Muslim immigrants, charged with no crimes, in the wake of 9/11.

Then there was his impassioned plea before the House Judiciary Committee on June 5 for expansion of the USA Patriot Act, the legislation hurriedly passed into law during the panic that followed the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Finally, there was the mess with DOJ Pride, a gay employee group, in which Ashcroft presided over the department's apparent refusal to allow the Justice Department's gay employee organization to hold its annual pride event at DOJ headquarters.

That initial decision was followed by a partial reversal of that stance but a continued refusal to sponsor and underwrite the security costs of holding the event at the headquarters. DOJ Pride organizers ultimately decided to move the program to Capitol Hill, where N.J. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D) invited them as guests of the Senate.

While the last of these controversies has, understandably, garnered the most attention within the queer community, the DOJ Pride flap is a mere indicator of why we need to turn our collective gaze to the first two.

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED THE Sept. 11 attacks, more than 750 Muslim immigrants were rounded up — many on pure hearsay — and held in a federal detention center without being charged, their families lied to about their whereabouts, and their access to lawyers denied or obstructed.

A number of the detainees, according to the inspector general, were subjected to verbal and physical abuse, including the use such of torture techniques as keeping them shackled in solitary confinement under bright lights some 23 hours a day.

Why, you may ask, should queer people fret over the fate of pious Muslims who overstayed their visas? After all, you might reason, they're about as likely as Jerry Falwell to embrace our cause.

True enough, perhaps. Nonetheless, what's right is right, and these people were done wrong. More than that, the United States Constitution was done wrong, trampled on with impunity by the FBI. And that bodes not well, my friends, for both the nation as a whole and for us as a community.

History has shown, time and time again, that when the powers-that-be go looking for scapegoats, we usually make it onto the short list. Even when the initial targets are ethnic, religious or ideological groups, the sights ultimately find us in range, as well.

During his recent visit to Capitol Hill, Ashcroft was hardly contrite about the inspector general's findings.

"We make no apologies," he said, for holding prisoners until it was determined that they had no connection to terrorism. In other words, guilty until proven innocent.

In the 2001 Patriot Act, Ashcroft won the right to amass, through secret warrants, information on the library habits of U.S. citizens and residents, their retail purchases, credit records, general health and mental health charts, student records and the like. Likewise, the government's wiretapping powers were expanded, with e-mail and Internet traffic designated fair game for secret government surveillance.

The definition of terrorism was broadened in such a way that domestic political advocacy groups that engage in civil disobedience could be monitored and infiltrated by law enforcement authorities with little judicial oversight.

Had this bill been law during the 1980s and '90s, Queer Nation would have been a prime target for the terrorist label (especially after that Communion stunt at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral).

Most frighteningly, the Patriot Act allows the FBI to "investigate American citizens for criminal matters without probable cause of a crime," according to the American Civil Liberties Union, so long as the agents claim the investigation is "for intelligence purposes." If you missed your chance to kiss the Fourth Amendment (protection against unreasonable searches and seizures) goodbye while she was being rushed out the door, you may wish to send her a note.

IF YOU THOUGHT ASHRCROFT'S BLOODlust would have been satisfied with the red meat of one hunk of the Bill of Rights, think again. He's back, and he's asking for more.

Imagine the consequences for political activists and just regular queer folk if Justice's proposed Domestic Security Enhancement Act passed into law in the form it took when some saint at the department leaked it, earlier this year, to the Center for Public Integrity.

As reported by ABC News, the draft calls for granting the Justice Department the power "to wiretap a person for 15 days without a warrant, [and would permit] federal agents to secretly arrest people and provide no information to their family, the media or their attorney until charges are brought, no matter how long that took."

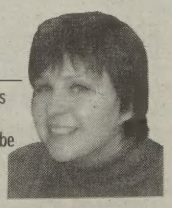
But the bill's coup de grâce is its provision allowing "the government to strip Americans of their citizenship for even unknowingly helping a group that is connected to an organization deemed to be terrorist." Note the phrase "deemed to be terrorist." You may want to think twice before joining the gay contingent at the next anti-globalization march.

And remember those Muslim detainees, and how we didn't feel that outraged about what happened to them, since they weren't U.S. citizens? According to this draft of what has come to be known as "Patriot II," the government could deem you and me non-citizens for an act of civil disobedience.

One of Ashcroft's first acts upon assuming office was to drape the classical nude sculptures that grace the headquarters' lobby in sheets, so as to cover their privates.

An act of civil disobedience I'd love to see: Let's have a party in the lobby and yank those sheets. We can use, as the new fig leaves, copies of the Bill of Rights, a document soon to be rendered unenforceable.

Adele M. Stan is a Washington writer and can be reached through this publication.



letters

Don't compare abortion to sex-change surgery

To the Editor:

As a gender-variant, gay, pro-life male and resident of Atlanta, I feel I must take issue with a letter in your June13 issue by Keith Fix ("Trans activists make gay life harder").

I was actually starting to believe that my tranny friend from school in Ohio was wrong when she said that gays and lesbians purposefully exclude bisexuals and transgender people from the movement and resent their being a part of our community, but now I definitely have to reconsider.

I am very proud to be a passenger on the GLBT "train" (as your letter writer describes it). When I first came out and started going to YouthPride, one of my first best friends I met there is trans. Through many a night of chatting and counseling, she saved me from years of loneliness and depression.

Fix makes a fundamental mistake in queer theory. He does not understand that fluidity in gender is basic to our concept of sexual orientation. Most employers could care less what we do in the bedroom. Yes, it would be nice to be able to put a picture of our partner in our cubicle, but what threatens a job and quite possibly my life every day is that I have a high-pitched voice, a "swish" when I walk, and a limp wrist.

By working to add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to company policy, trans activists are fighting a smarter fight than we lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are. They are working to change our patriarchal, oppressive norms of what a woman or man "should be."

To top it all off, Fix makes gender-reassignment surgery akin to abortion. When a woman chooses abortion, she removes a part of her body that has a different genetic code. While the choice to undergo gender-reassignment surgery (which not all trannies choose) can be a very painful decision like abortion, a trans person is trying to make her or his body fully conform to an identity that they have felt their whole life.

RICK HOFFMAN
Atlanta

Surgery is gender tool for adults, not babies

To the Editor:

I find it interesting that letter writer Keith Fix ("Trans activists make gay life harder," letters, June 13) finds the involuntary genital mutilation of non-consenting, intersexed children to be acceptable, and yet he finds it unpalatable for consenting adults with a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria to undergo consensual sex reassignment surgery.

These mutilations occur beyond the brutal sex and gender reassignments that boys born with micro-penises undergo every day in the U.S. They include surgery done so little boys can stand while peeing, and on little girls born with a clitoris deemed too large to be socially acceptable.

Often the basis for these surgeries as told to the parents is that without this cosmetic mutilation, their child will most certainly grow up to homosexual. If you believe that these surgeries are acceptable, I must wonder about your own biases.

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"AND *THAT*, BOYS, IS HOW TO TIE YOURSELF IN KNOTS."

Equal opportunity hate

To the Editor:

I am appalled at the refusal of the jury to convict Morehouse student Aaron Price of an obvious hate crime. ("Price guilty in bat attack," news, June 13)

What does it take to prove that someone must be prejudiced for beating someone with a baseball bat because he is perceived to be gay? Price has the stupid idea that his manhood was threatened.

If Price had been a white student at Georgia State and had been yelling the "N" word as he bashed Gregory Love, would the jury not have convicted Price of a hate crime?

We are often afraid to discuss how a lot of African-American men have a problem with gays, and we need other African Americans to stand up to them and say this hatred is completely wrong.

Former motivational speaker Danny Buggs could stand up and use the 'F" word in front of DeKalb County students at an assembly, and the school board gave him a simple slap on the wrist. This is not uncommon.

Gay bashing evidently is not an equal opportunity hate crime. Bigotry can have many forms.

KEN RAGAN
Decatur, Ga.

Editor's note: The letter writer is the founder of the Northlake Alliance of Gays & Lesbians.

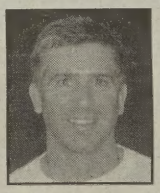
'DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR,' PAGE 83

Rev. Stephen Van Kuiken was dismissed from his Presbyterian church in Ohio for performing a same-sex marriage ceremony, despite a church judicial commission ruling that ordered him not to perform the gay marriages. (Story, Page 15)

THE Q

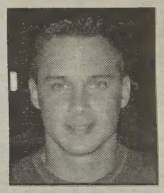
Questions about what's going on in **your** world

Did Van Kuiken deserve to be removed from his church? Or was he justified for subscribing to a law of truth that he considered higher than the one laid out in the church's constitution?



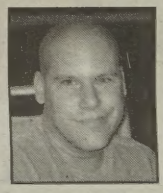
'I believe that there probably are grounds to defrock the minister, because he did join this ministry knowing full well what the rules were. If he did not want to adhere to them, he should have never gone through with his ordination.'

Bill Driscoll, 40, Decatur



'Yes, he was justified. Love crosses over boundaries. There is no one person who can justify whether his love is correct or someone else's love is correct. Love is love. It crosses over sexuality. There are no boundaries to love.'

Howie Ridgeway, 35, Grant Park

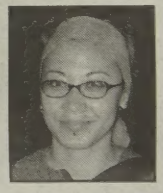


'When he entered into his job, I think that he'd understand what his tasks were and what was acceptable for the people that he serves. So he should be following those rules, and if he doesn't like them then he needed to leave.'

Louis Niper, 38, East Atlanta

'When you are ordained, you agree to the ordination rules. So ... he would know that he's going to get booted out because he's agreed to be ordained in the first place. He is justified in performing the ceremony, and I'm glad there are people that stand up for that, but you realize what the consequences are.'

Jan Dillard, 52, Ansley Park



'He knew the rules that he was working under, so it was understandable why they had to do that. But I understand. I'm with him. Love is above everything — rules and laws. He was doing what he felt in his heart, and that's what the church believes in — faith and love.'

Chanelle Dequina, 22, Little 5 Points

'It could go both ways, because he took a vow to represent the church a certain way and he then didn't. In the same sense, if he feels that it is spiritually right to do that, then he is right in doing what he feels is the correct thing spiritually for him.'

Penny Roach, 27, Woodstock

'Without order there is chaos. You have to follow some sort of rules in life. You can't break the law. In my job, if I do something wrong, basically I know that I'll be fired. So if I know that I do it and will be fired, how can I complain about it later?'

Eddie Ray, 29, Stockbridge

Interviews and photos by Christopher Seely

viewpoint KEVIN IVERS

The press questions if **Mark Foley is gay**, and he refuses to talk about it, apologize, or back off his gay connections. Will it work?

Don't ask; he won't tell

AMONG THE MANY POLITICAL PEOple I've met over the years, I would count Congressman Mark Foley as a friend. He has a voting record that has earned him the support of gay rights organizations, and he has made a point of trying to exert leverage over the House GOP leadership when he felt it was necessary to move forward important matters for gays and people with HIV/AIDS.

Like many of his friends in the gay political world, I've watched uncomfortably as he and his staff have confronted a media boomlet, in which questions about Mark's sexual orientation have become a campaign issue in his run for the U.S. Senate from Florida.

Foley chose to respond to a couple of stories on the subject with a telephone press conference in which he vehemently denounced any coverage of the issue, insisting that this part of his personal life is not a fair or relevant area in a campaign.

Gay rights groups, for the most part, rose to his defense in various ways, especially those GOP and centrist gay groups who have supported Foley over the years, with the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund going so far as to call the story "dirty."

Predictably, partisan Democrats joined forces with the anti-gay far right in Florida in calling Foley a hypocrite, a closet-case and other such names, united only by their opposition to — you guessed it — Foley's voting record (pro-gay, pro-GOP, take your pick).

A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE GAY POLitical world privately expected Foley's strategy, managed by his tireless chief of staff Kirk Fordham, to collapse as so many political campaigns have under the same pressures on this very issue.

The strategy is unprecedented for this kind of story: never confirm or deny that you're gay, never back off your connections to the gay community, never apologize for any of it, and never waver one inch.

Other members of Congress facing what some would call an "outing" in the past either decided to come out (Barney Frank, Jim Kolbe) or obfuscate (Bob Bauman, Jon Hinson), but none ever tried to push back against the press in quite so bold a fashion as Foley is now.

So far, despite some serious criticism in respected gay publications, it appears to be working. It has not become a national story.

His main primary opponent, former Rep. Bill McCollum, has said he will not make it an issue and hasn't, at least not yet. A New York Times reporter told me privately that the story "doesn't pass the outing bar," while a gay Republican's fund-raiser for Foley's Senate campaign recently went on as scheduled.

The conservative Washington Times, never afraid to slam moderate Republicans of all kinds with embarrassing chatter from unnamed sources, has surprised many by leaving the story alone.

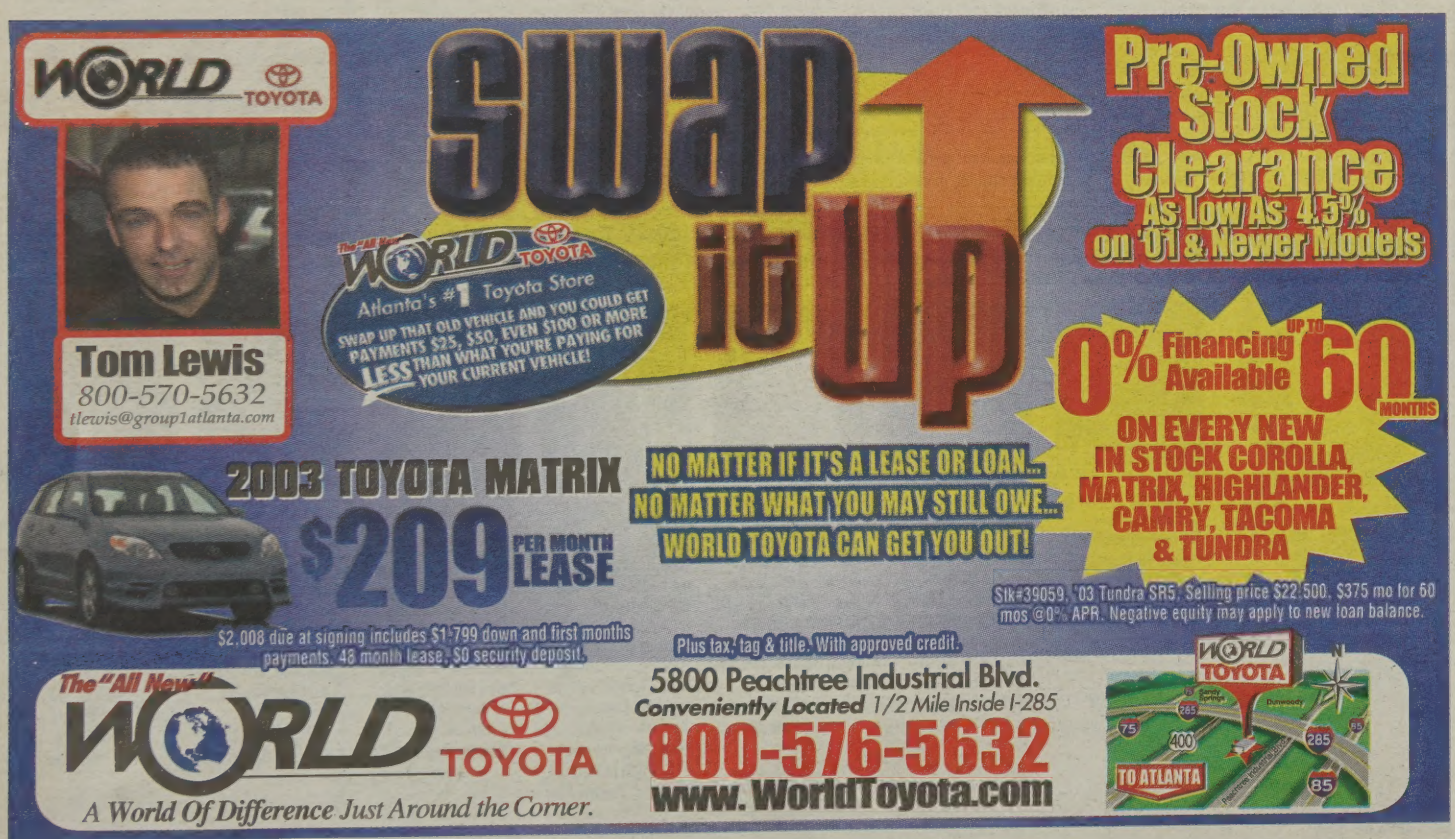
BUT HOW IT IS WORKING FOR FOLEY might be uncovering some interesting developments in the gay political world, and conventional wisdom on this issue generally. A significant number of letters to the editors of gay newspapers are defending Foley's right to privacy, and the need to get beyond the question of sexual orientation, especially among allies who are unwilling to answer the question.

Behind the scenes, there is no mistaking the unsettled feelings among gay politicos over the whole messy affair. Gay activists complain privately of feeling like they are defending a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Gay Republicans uniformly winced when Foley denounced the report of him being gay as "revolting." Some gay Republicans have had no trouble sticking with Mark given the importance of electing such a staunchly pro-gay Republican to the Senate.

The wider political implications of this story could be enormous for gay politics. The movement toward making sexual orientation a "non-issue" in the GOP could end up scoring a huge victory. Or liberal Democrats could prove that anti-gay politics still matter a lot in big states like Florida, even when they choose to play to them for their own partisan ends.

And gay political hopefuls might feel they have another option beyond coming out. The moral implications, on the other hand, might be disturbing to many gays if any of these come to pass.

Kevin Ivers is the former public affairs director for the national Log Cabin Republicans and now runs a public affairs strategy firm in Washington. He can be reached at kivers@centerstrategies.com.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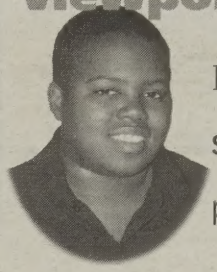
viewpoint CHALEE SNORTON



If the Supreme Court strikes down the Texas **sodomy law**, the legal effect won't be as powerful as the mental prisons it will open.

A victory for 'sodomites'

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I heard the word "sodomy." I grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Columbia, S.C. When friends would drop by the house, my mom would banish me from the kitchen, the prime spot for chitchat, so the grown folks could discuss adult matters.

Obviously, this was my cue to go to the next room, press my ear against the wall and listen. Straining to overhear the juicy bits of gossip whispered in hushed tones, I remember hearing the term "sodomite" in connection with some of the more colorful, flamboyant men that attended my church or taught at my school.

At that age, I had no idea what sodomy meant, and yet the term frightened me. The way that people talked about it made it clear that those "sodomites" were not people I should associate with.

It was not until much later I understood the precise meaning of sodomy, and it was about that time that I began to understand that "sodomite" was really code for gay. In many ways, I would say that when I figured out the truth about sodomy, I also found out the truth about myself.

As a young lesbian grappling with identity questions, I recognized how that criminalizing and dehumanizing term implicated my own desires. It also illuminated for me the relationship — and the blurred boundaries — between laws, identities and my own imagination.

For it was at that time that I truly understood: Laws are not merely words on paper: they are lived realities in the prisons of our minds.

SODOMY LAWS ARE AIMED AT LIMITing my potential. When I walk down streets and feel the gaze of police officers sizing me up, I go through the laundry list of identities that have been used to mark me as "criminal," "suspicious" and "deviant."

"Is it because I'm black? Or because I look like a lesbian? Or are they reading me as a young boy? Is it because of my age? Or my clothes?"

In many ways, these interactions reaffirm for me the way laws shape not only how society perceives us, but also the ways we perceive ourselves.

The Supreme Court's 1986 decision in Bowers vs. Hardwick upholding Georgia's sodomy law showed how we can be put in our "place" psychologically, furthering our mental repression and imprisonment.

THAT MAY BE WHY I NEVER GOT SUPport coming out from my music teacher, who was often the subject of those adult conversations I overheard as a child. Perhaps he too was struggling against his own psychic prison walls, coming to grips with what it means to be a black gay man teaching at a small Catholic school in a rural Southern town.

On the other hand, there have been court decisions that unlocked some of those prisons, and opened us to new possibilities as a people no longer controlled by the stigma the law created.

In 1954, the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education decision declared separate educational facilities "inherently unequal," and as such, a violation of the 14th Amendment. In 1973, the Supreme Court threw out Texas' abortion laws in the historic and still-controversial Roe vs. Wade decision.

The Texas sodomy case now before the Supreme Court, represents a case of monumental importance that has the potential to reshape what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered in America.

The court might strike down the law as a violation of the right to privacy, or decide that the Texas law violates the Constitution's equal protection clause, putting an end to laws that target LGBT people as second-class citizens.

A victory, on one or both rationales, would publicly decriminalize expressions of love among people of the same gender, but also present us with a challenge to break free from the mental chains in every state across the country.

In most states, sodomy laws no longer prevent us from doing what we want behind closed doors, but they continue to subtly prevent us from seeing ourselves as full citizens who deserve rights, recognition and esteem.

We are not simply asking for equal rights and protections. We are working so we may provide future generations of LGBT people the right to imagine themselves in any way they choose — both publicly and within the confines of their own minds.

Chalee Snorton is the southeastern regional media manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and can be reached at **snorton@glaad.org**.

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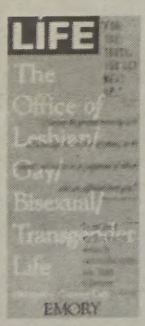
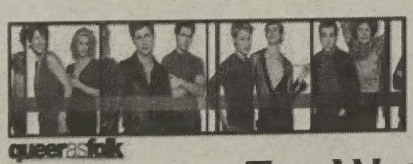
promoting equality in our schools

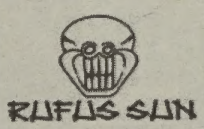
The last school year has been a challenging and eventful year for Enlight. As we beginning planning for the next year we would like to acknowledge all those who have made the success of this one possible.

As we work to fulfill our mission to end harassment and bias based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity in our K-12 schools.

Anthony Heald, Ken DeLeon, BlockBuster, David E. Kelley Productions, Ed Darrow & Company, Miss Q's, Caribou Coffee, Steven Eads Photography, 20th Century Fox, Urban Body Fitness, Jim Eckerle, Mark Renfrow, Karl M. Leyh, James Masters, John R. Williams, Bernard Cohen, McKelvey & Russell LLC, Flora Dora, Chad Prescott David Carter, Gay Pages, Ken Batts, Doug Rauch, Patti & Jeff Ellis Michael Dudich, Lexington Chocolatiers, Alex Sanchez, Tom Miller, Alice Masker, Gene Finley and Sam Zamarippa







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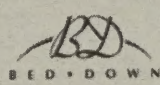
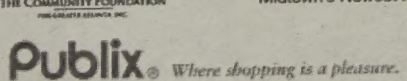
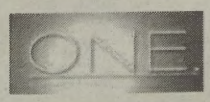
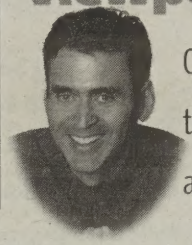






viewpoint MICHAEL ALVEAR



Canadian gays will so improve upon marriage, think **air! light! color!** that hapless heteros are likely to be victims of our gentrification.

Blame Canada for wed woes

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TALK about Luther Vandross being gay, just as there has been talk about his yo-yo dieting where he would go from 200 pounds to 340 and back.

He has shown little interest in talking about his weight, and even less about his sexual orientation. Concerning the latter, his standard response is, "It's none of your goddamn business."

As a mainstream male R&B artist, Vandross plays to the market, which means feminine pronouns and love duets with female vocalists. But in 1994 he recorded the Roberta Flack standard, "Killing Me Softly," without changing the masculine pronouns. "I felt all flushed with fever, embarrassed by the crowd. I felt he'd found my letters and read each one out loud."

He sang it ravishingly, and the message could not have been clearer: There was more to him than he had told us, and he would not be pigeonholed. It was a gutsy move, because virile male vocalists are not supposed to sing heart-wrenchingly about other men.

Now he has done it again. In "Dance With My Father," the intimate title song of his 15th and possibly final album, Vandross movingly evokes childhood memories of his late father. "I'd love love love to dance with my father again" is not a sentiment we are used to hearing from mainstream male singers.

Once again he breaks a taboo concerning masculinity, which says that boys don't dance with their daddies. And this time, he didn't just record the song; he made it the title track.

"And I knew for sure I was loved." The new song is all the more poignant because its author has been in intensive care since suffering a massive stroke on April 16, four days before his 52nd birthday. His friends and family are not saying much, but they assured his fans that a tracheotomy that became necessary was done so as not to damage his vocal cords.

IT FEELS PRESUMPTUOUS TO demand career-risking revelations from a public figure when so many ordinary folk still avoid the challenge.

For example, little notice is taken of the incongruity in the organizers of Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day shortening the name in their printed materials to the closeted Black Pride and having a "down low" party. If Luther is a creature of his time, he has enriched it extravagantly with what he knows best. It seems oddly fitting that someone driven to conceal his own desires has provided musical accompaniment to so many other people's lovemaking.

Too often we use our penchant for classifying as a way of keeping things safely segregated. Author Richard Rodriguez, in a recent commencement speech, mentioned how far his shelf in the Borders bookstore is from those of his own favorite authors. He is stuck in the back under "Latin American" while James Baldwin is across the room under "African American" and someone else is under "Literature," each relegated to a different arbitrary category. He said that at night after the clerk is gone, they all get together under the espresso machine.

NO ART OR MUSIC BELONGS EXCLUsively to a particular group; that is not how human beings work. Legally or not, the borders have long since been crossed, in art as in love. An extraordinary voice strikes a chord in us and we are seduced, whether we are men or women, straight or gay — and regardless of how love moves the man behind the voice.

It is hard to accept how fragile virtuosity is, how quickly it can be taken away. Luther's impeccable phrasing, his crisp articulation and silken tone, his sinuous melismas, his sheer sensuality and eloquence — all of that may be gone forever because of a stroke in the night. Yet here is his voice beside me in the dark, as if his head rested on the next pillow.

Like familiar ghosts in a darkened bookstore, he will continue to inhabit many strangers' rooms, his caressing tenor bearing us up and finding just the right words and the poise to deliver them when we are at a loss.

As I write this, the news says Luther is slowly emerging from his coma. That's it, guy, come on back. I won't care if you are fat, aging and cannot sing a note. I want the next dance.

Michael Alvear *is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon" and can be reached at* michael@menrpigs.cc.

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on the record

"In effect, we'll have a taxpayer-funded authority figure on school grounds during school hours telling school children that homosexual behavior is OK. ... Unless this bill is defeated, we have sacrificed our children's innocence on the altar of political correctness."

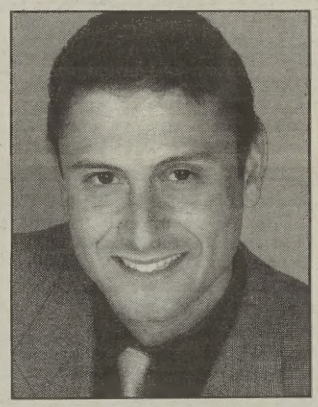
N.Y. Assemblyman Dan Hooker (R-Sharon Springs), on a proposal to target bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation, among other categories; the bill passed 136 to 8 (Daily Freeman, June 16)

"You keep your homophobia out of this chamber, and you keep it out of this building, and you keep it out of the government. We are here. We are your brothers and sisters. We deserve respect, and we demand respect, and we're going to get it."

*N.Y. Assemblyman **Daniel O'Donnell** (D-Manhattan), Rosie's brother, on the floor of the N.Y. state legislature, responding to Hooker's opposition to the anti-bullying bill (New York Post, June 11)*

"I have a record as attorney general that is separate from my personal beliefs."

William Pryor, Alabama's attorney general, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on his nomination by President Bush to be a federal appeals court judge; Pryor has acknowledged canceling a family trip to Disneyworld that coincided with the annual Gay Days, and he wrote in a brief supporting the Texas sodomy law that striking down the law would be akin to approving of "prostitution, adultery, necrophilia, bestiality, possession of child pornography and even incest and pedophilia." (New York Times, June 12)

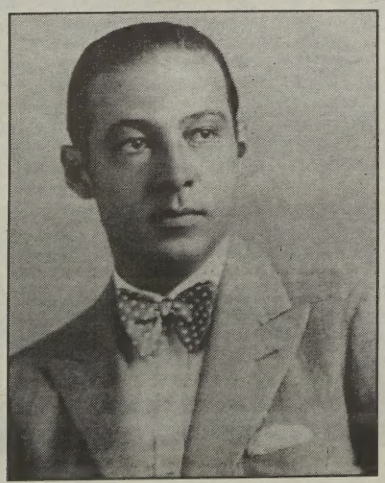


"[Mark Foley] is simply a vain, calculating, solipsistic politician who stands for nothing but his own résumé. He has betrayed the GLBT community, deceived the right wing and offered nothing substantive or enduring to public service. Florida and America deserve more than having Congressman Closet become Senator Secret."

***Wayne Besen**, a former spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign who is now a morning DJ at Sirius satellite radio's Out Q channel, on the announcement by Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) that he would not discuss reports that he is gay during his ongoing run for the U.S. Senate (May 30)*

"I have personal principles, but the law is another matter. The mayor of a city has specific obligations that he or she might not personally agree with. Declaring Gay Pride Week is one of those obligations that the mayor of Edmonton is legally bound to do."

Edmonton, Canada's mayor Bill Smith, explaining tersely at a press conference why he decided to sign a Gay Pride declaration after refusing for seven years to do so; his prior refusals led to a complaint filed against him by gay activists under the city's human rights ordinance (Edmonton Journal, June 12)



"Get over it, get on with it. They just are. Admit it. It's not an issue of sexual orientation; it's an issue of civil rights."

Ron Cantelon, mayor of Nanaimo, a small town in the Canadian province of British Columbia, offering advice to Smith, the Edmonton mayor (Edmonton Journal, June 12)

"People are still unsettled by the possibility that Rudy might not have been entirely heterosexual. Ambiguity makes people uncomfortable."

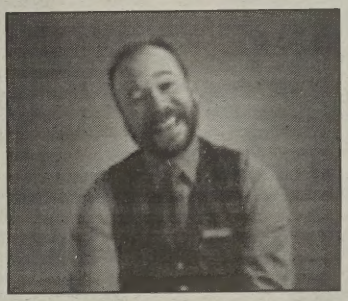
*Author Emily Leider, on her new book, "Dark Lover: The Life & Death of **Rudolph Valentino**," which speculates the famous actor was unsettled by his own sexual orientation and probably had at least one affair with a man (San Francisco Chronicle, June 15)*

action! alert

Fly me online

TV ads for travel Web sites employ gay characters

By MIKE FLEMING



A British television ad for **Travelocity** uses stereotypically gay flight attendants to reach a wide audience in an 'edgy and playful' campaign officials say is getting positive response from gay travelers.

ONLINE TRAVEL GIANTS ORBITZ AND Travelocity ventured into uncharted territory for their industry this year with television ads that include gay characters.

The new Orbitz ad expands on the company's marketing plan to target gay travelers, but the Travelocity ad campaign seen on British television employs stereotypically gay characters to reach a wider audience with comic relief.

"Gay and lesbian travelers are an important, valued audience for travel and leisure companies," said Mike Sands, chief marketing officer at Orbitz.

The Orbitz 30-second television spot debuts on the Bravo and BBC America cable networks next week. It features the "Destination: Orbitz" cast of puppet mascots helping same-sex couples book a trip to Miami.

Orbitz launched a micro-site within its larger Web site in June 2002 for gay travelers, an audience the company views as a lucrative niche.

"Orbitz is proud to acknowledge the power of the gay travel dollar," Sands said.

Orbitz commissioned research that showed 69 percent of gay travelers took a weekend getaway in 2002, and gay travelers spent some 70 percent of their travel dollars online last year, Sands said.

THE ORBITZ AD IS SQUEAKY-CLEAN in its approach, incorporating same-sex couples without sexual references.

But in Europe — where commercials are often shocking by American standards — Travelocity employs characters that are stereotypically gay to be "edgy and playful," said Charlotte Harper, UK marketing director for Travelocity.

The ad features a series of male flight attendants who plug Travelocity services using thinly veiled sexual innuendo.

"I can get you off first thing in the morning," one fey character says. "Heathrow, Gatwick; I go both ways."

"Pick me if you have a tight budget," another continues. "Just recline, and let me service you."

Commercial Closet, a Web site devoted to cataloguing and analyzing commercials with gay content, lists the Travelocity ads in its "Stereotypes" category, an ad type that splits approval among gays, said Michael Wilke, founder of Commerical Closet.

"While some in the gay community now accept these depictions as 'diversity' and 'reality,' others remain sensitive to them and do not," Wilke said.

Travelocity does not gear marketing efforts to a gay niche, but considers gays a valuable part of its wider audience, Harper said.

The ad, which is the fourth in a campaign that uses the gay flight attendant characters, "builds on a tightly defined understanding of Travelocity's target audience," she said. "Our audience is not predominantly gay, although we do have a significant number of valued customers who are."

The new ad is intended to be entertaining as well as attention-getting for all travelers regardless of sexual orientation, Harper said.

"It is designed to grab the attention of our audience in a way people will least expect," she said. "The campaign makes you laugh but not without sitting up and listening to what we've got to offer."

Customer feedback has been positive on the "camp steward creative," according to Harper.

"We have had a great deal of positive response to the commercial from our customers, many of whom are gay," she said.

THE INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESbian Travel Association, a group for travel industry professionals, maintains that including gays in both campaigns shows the companies "must be very successful and are very professional in their marketing," said Robert Wilson, executive director of IGLTA.

The Travelocity ad is inoffensive and seems to be all in "good fun," he said.

Efforts to include gays in marketing are part of a burgeoning realization that it's a viable market, said Steve Smith, IGLTA treasurer.

"Orbitz is starting to recognize the power of the gay community, as have 1,200 of our members who are either gay or gay-friendly," he said.

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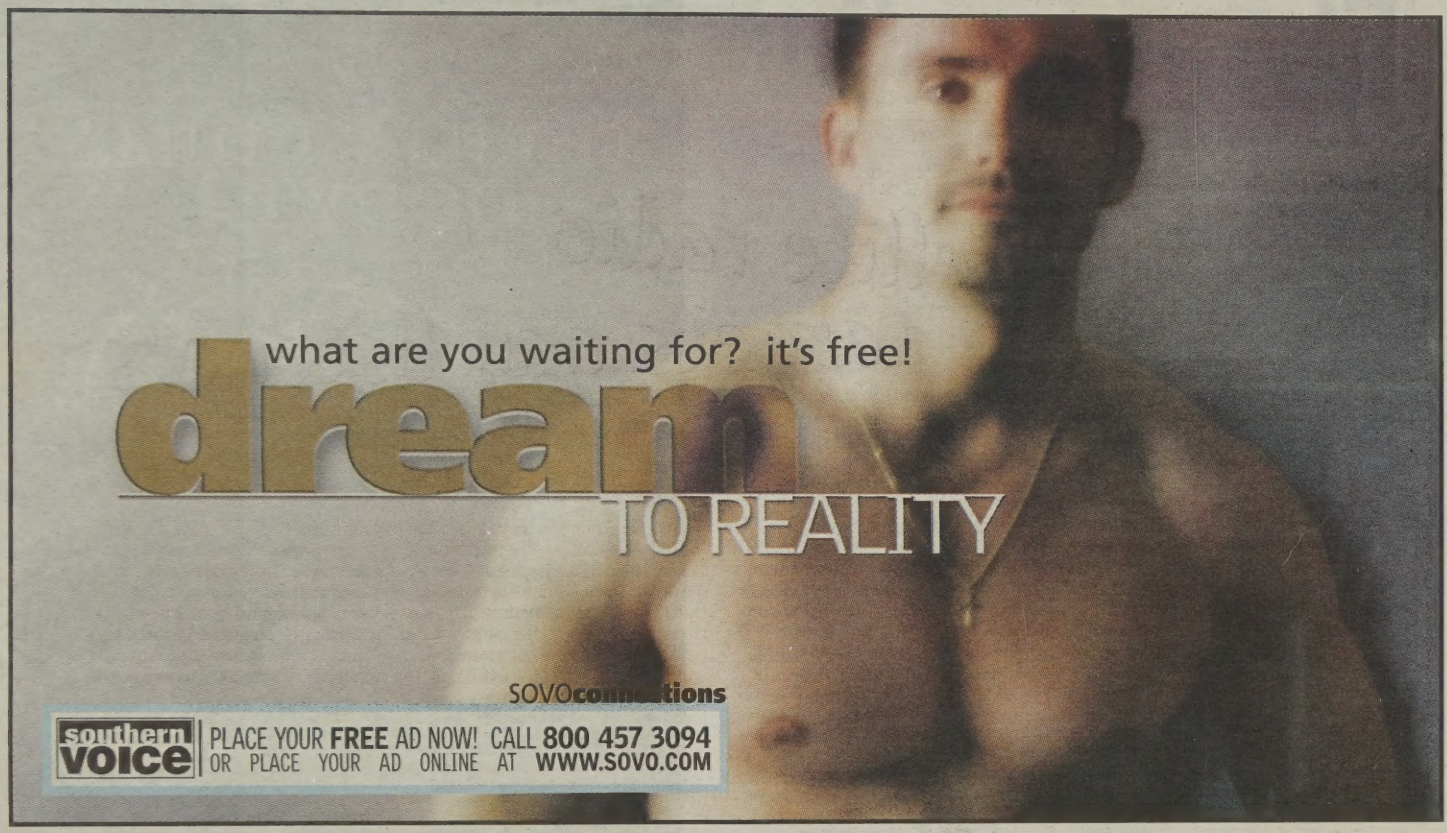
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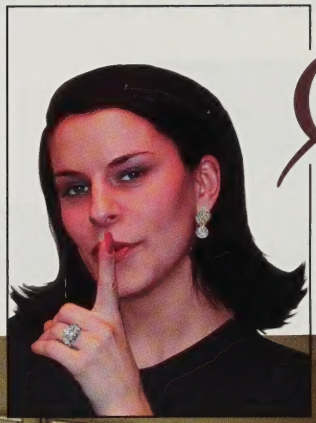

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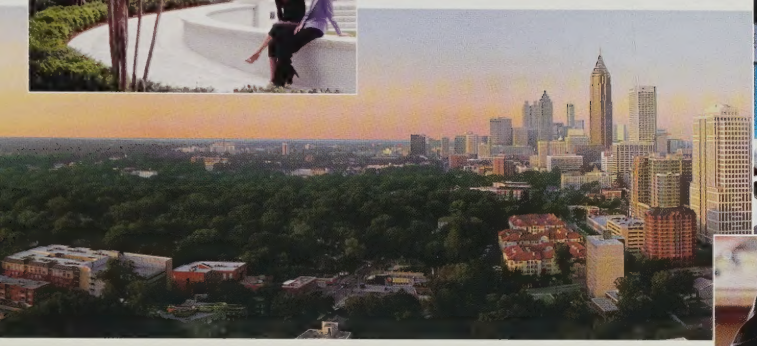

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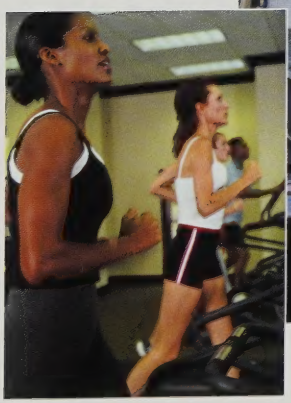

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There are many great hotel chains around the world, yet you may find yourself surrounded by the same "luxury" in Vienna as in Chongqing. When possible we seek authentic lodgings that offer more local color but still maintain the standard of comfort and elegance we expect.

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Exotic foods and unusual local customs are part of the fun of travel. Goat stew tempts the hardy, as we dine on a carpet on the edge of the Sahara. Basketball bread and puff fish lure the daring in Kanchanaburi. Elegant picnics in the shadow of a pyramid remind us we are not having pasta at home. This is why we travel.

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PRIDE AND TRUE

Not everyone is ready to travel in this style. As Hanns Ebensten said long ago, "We pride ourselves on traveling free from petty complaints, distrust and discrimination. If you can't do the same, then perhaps you should stay home."

We strive to create the perfect experience. However, in a world where planes are late, drinks are weak and sometimes our new shoes get scuffed, we must move on in the spirit of adventure in which we began.

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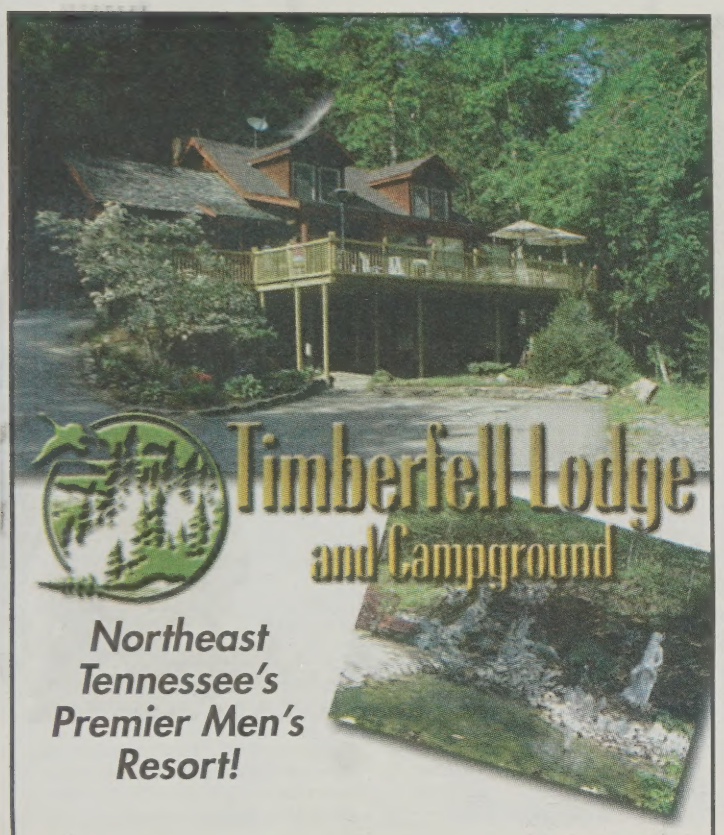

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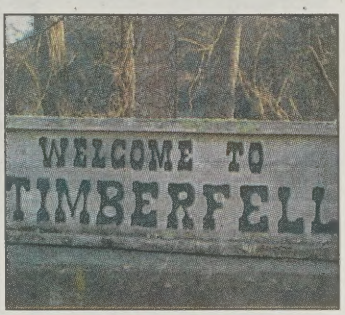

There's no question that the winter of 2003 was among the most difficult in recent years. It wasn't merely the intensity, it was the duration. More than one heavy snowstorm found urbanites digging out their cars or slogging through slushy streets. The wet, seemingly endless winter has left city dwellers with an acute case of cabin fever.

Luckily, vacation time is nearing. While many gay men may be planning escapes to tropical climes, perhaps it bears consideration that the best cure for cabin fever might be someplace with actual cabins.

Northeastern Tennessee's Timberfell Lodge is such a place.

Set in the beautiful Tennessee Mountains, Timberfell Lodge is the ideal place to shake off the gray days of winter.

Situated in a secluded pocket of the Appalachian mountains, Timberfell is a clothing-optional, men-only bed and breakfast. It's a quiet place with a rustic atmosphere, but with no shortage of modern amenities. Their fair number of repeat visitors is evidence of the good service and friendly vibe here.

Timberfell Lodge offers plenty of activities, indoors and outdoors, as well as a number of special events

THINGS TO DO

Guests will find a variety of outdoor activities, from trail hiking to enjoying the pool complex. That complex features a heated pool, glass-enclosed hot tub, 20-man sauna, and 64 square foot tiled shower room. Guests may also fish the stocked pond or wander a Memorial Garden.

Indoor activities are centered around the vaulted great room of the lodge's main building. Attractions here include a video library and an enormous stone fireplace.

Timberfell hosts a variety of special events and theme weekends year-round. A few examples from their upcoming roster include:

- Nude Weekend/Full Moon Party, June 20 – 22;
- July Fourth Weekend with live entertainment;
- Labor Day Celebration, August 29 – September 1.

The year also holds parties for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

GETTING THERE

Timberfell Lodge is a considerable distance from most east coast urban centers; however, some people appreciate a mind-clearing road trip as a prelude to vacation. Those who choose that option will find the drive straightforward and scenic.

A quicker alternative is airline service to the nearby Tricities Regional Airport or Knoxville's Tyson-McGhee International Airport. The lodge offers round-trip airport transportation at an additional fee ($50 for Tricities, $95 for Knoxville); rental cars are available at either airport for those who prefer to have their own wheels.

ROOMS AND RATES

Timberfell offers accommodations of three basic types: rooms, cabins, and campsites. Rooms and cabins are available with private, semi-private or community bathrooms. Campsites are available with a four-person camper, an RV hookup, or a primitive, sleep-under-the-stars arrangement.

Prices are generally reasonable for accommodations of this quality, ranging from $134 per night for the most deluxe of rooms to $25 for primitive style. Room rates include a full breakfast, appetizers and dinner with complementary wine.

For more information about the property, room rates, and events, visit www.timberfell.com. The Web site is very informative and even includes a bulletin board where guests can post messages and make plans to meet.

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Gays live Carefree in new community

Imagine waking one day to discover that all of your neighbors were lesbians and gays. Queer people suddenly would be in the majority. Same-sex couples would hold hands while walking down the street or exchange affectionate pecks in public places. Dances at the neighborhood clubhouse would see women dancing cheek to cheek and men asking other men to join them for a circle 'round the dance floor.

It would seem almost too good to be true.

Certainly, pockets of this kind of existence can be found. Dances at GLBT community centers or lesbian and gay cruises offer safe environments in which we can play for a short time. But when the dance is over, or the cruise ship docks in port, we're back to living life in a straight world.

It's a problem that Gina Razete and Cathy Groene of CGR Development decided to tackle by creating an exclusively gay and lesbian living community.

"Vacations just aren't enough for most people," says Razete, the company's president. "In a day to day living situation, to be surrounded by lesbians and gays is an incredible experience." She notes that even though we may be out of the closet, in most communities we're not really free to live as openly as we might like. "We've created our own community where we can be who we are 24 hours a day," she says. "For most people who come to our communities, it's like being a kid in a candy store."

Located in the North Carolina mountains, Carefree Cove promises an environment where gays and lesbians can be themselves 24-hours a day.

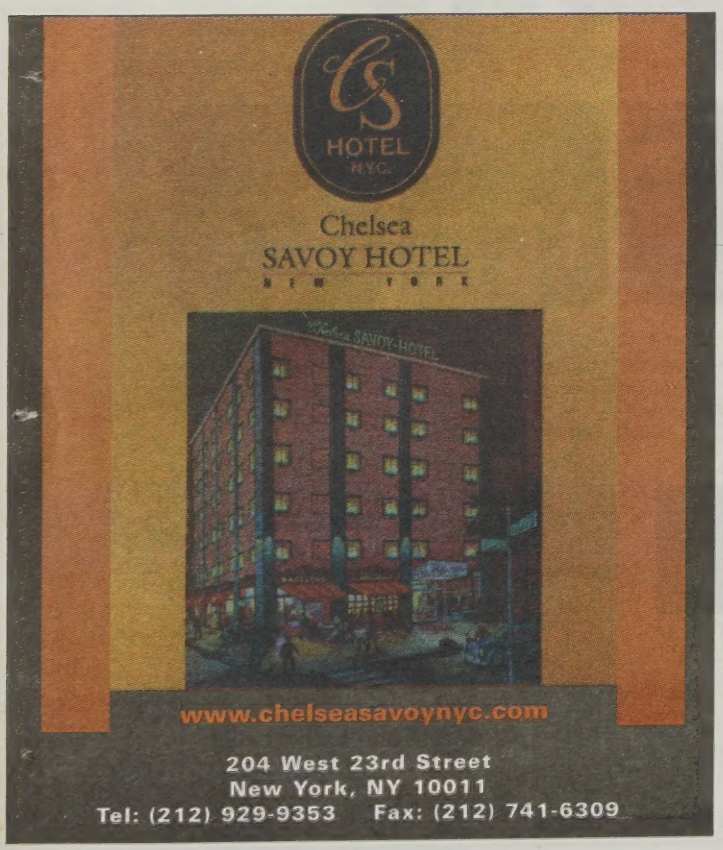
Carefree Cove, CGR's newest gated, lesbian and gay community, is located on 165 acres of North Carolina forestland. So far the company has completed development of thirty five lots, with twenty already sold. When development at Carefree Cove is complete, there will be a total of 95 wooded lots, ranging in size from three quarters of an acre to one and three quarter acres.

In real estate developer parlance, "developed lots" are those where the infrastructure — roads, water lines, and the like — is completed. After purchasing the lot, the new owner can begin building a home. Homes at Carefree Cove are to feature an "upscale rustic" aesthetic, with construction limited to log, wood, and stone. So far, one house is completed and three others are in the building process.

The finished community also will feature a number of amenities for its residents. Plans include a clubhouse with swimming pool, hot tub, and exercise room, a social hall for dances and parties, a hobby room, and a kitchen. The clubhouse will be the hub of the community; the focal point there is expected to be the large stone fireplace.

As an additional benefit for residents, the developers have set aside over one hundred acres as common ground. There will be hiking trails, gardens, and a stocked pond for the community's trout fishers.

For more information about Carefree Cove, call (336) 385-1136, e-mail cg@resortoncb.com, or visit their Web site at www.carefreecove.com.



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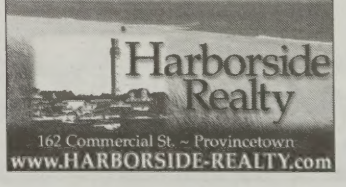

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STAGE PRESENCE: Gay directors in Atlanta's top theaters discuss the influence they have in city's mainstream. **Page 57**

ROCK OUT: Musician **Eric Himan** brings his soulful voice and infectious talents to Pride stage. **Page 47**

Satellite radio targets gay listeners

Sirius radio executives bank on increasing interest from gays and other underserved communities

By BRIAN MOYLAN

BACK IN 1979, DISCO DIVA DONNA Summer sang, "Now in my heart I know I can say what I really feel. They said it really loud, they said it on the air, on the radio."

Some 24 years later, gays might finally understand exactly what Summer meant when they tune in to OutQ, a new station — or "stream," as it is called in the business — on the Sirius Radio satellite network. OutQ is an all-gay, all-talk stream that runs 24 hours a day offering gay oriented talk shows and entertainment.

If Sirius doesn't ring a bell, it's probably because the network started broadcasting last year and is just beginning to become a force in the marketplace.

New York-based Sirius, along with its competition XM Satellite Radio based in Washington, D.C., is slowly educating consumers about satellite radio. Both companies are gambling on the medium's viability to become the next big entertainment technology.

Instead of traditional radio stations that beam radio waves over a short distance, satellite radio uses space satellites to beam various streams all over the world. Not only are the signals accessible in rural areas where there are few or no traditional radio stations, but the dial can be set on the same station while driving cross-country without interruption.

"We're not just radio on steroids," says Larry Rebich, vice president of programming and market development for Sirius. "We are completely different. We have a new thing here."

Sirius and XM offer hundreds of commercial-free streams, including every genre of music imaginable, from show tunes and house music to news channels, sports channels, comedy channels and general entertainment channels.

There's even a '70s music channel, in case Summer's "On the Radio" gets stuck in your head.

"We have a commitment to our customers, and it is served in our music stations, reflected in our sports programming, and in our political talk channels," Rebich says. "And it's reflected in OutQ. That's really the essence of what we are."

THE COMPANY HAS A COMMITment to reaching underserved audiences, whether it's the all-gay format on OutQ, or bluegrass music fans that can't hear their favorite artists anywhere else.

With large monopolies owning many radio stations across the country, playlists on music channels are dictated on a corporate level, so they often sound the same station to station. Talk radio is increasingly homogenous as well.

OutQ and the other talk radio channels offered by Sirius now offer voices to groups that have been tuned out of other radio outlets.

"Millions of people across the country don't have access to gay and lesbian content or have a place at the table to talk about issues and news from our point of view without being edited," says John McMullen, program director of OutQ.

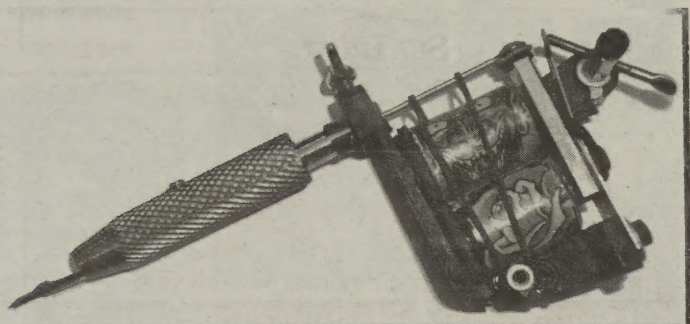
"This is a place where people can be heard and you can hear the different viewpoints in the community. This is not one point of view, but real dialogues between people in the community," he says.

McMullen came to Sirius last year after GAYBC, an internet-based radio service similar to OutQ, which he founded, shuttered operations. He says that because of the events of Sept. 11, investors walked away from the project when it was close to its break-even point.

"From a standpoint from the users of GAYBC, it was not a fail-

Please see **GAY RADIO** on **Page 67**

Cast and crew for Out Q, the Sirius company's new all-gay talk radio channel, include (from left) **Time Curran**, **Natalie Davis**, **Wayne Besen**, **Derek Hartley**, **Romaine Patterson**, **John McMullen**, **Angelique Perrin** (with **Mongo**, the Sirius mascot), **Michelangelo Signorile**, **Cary Harrison** and **Corey Johnson**. (Photo courtesy Sirius)



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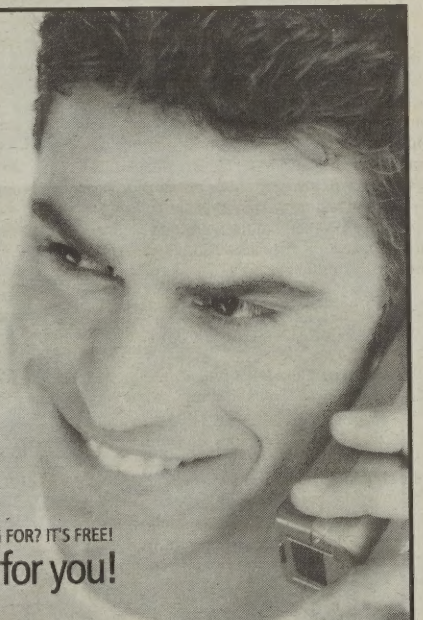

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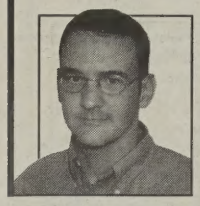

Self-effacing acoustic artist brings soulful style, **unmistakable talent** to Atlanta Pride on heels of new CD.

Not 'the man you had in mind'

A COMPACT, MUSCULAR PHYSIQUE and a preponderance of tattoos may be the first thing you notice about singer-songwriter Eric Himan. But once he cracks a self-effacing grin, his bad-boy good looks give way to a sweet, approachable personality.

"I'm just me," Himan says.

As he takes the stage, what attracts audiences more than Himan's undeniable sex appeal is the sense that there's substance beneath the surface and that listeners are in for a treat. There is, and they are.

That hard-to-pinpoint quality becomes apparent when Himan strikes the first chord on his guitar. And as he begins to sing, his soulful, infectious voice fulfills all expectations.

"My music is folk rock with a lot of blues influence," he says. "I listen to Ani DiFranco, and I think that comes across. But I also listen to a lot of Aretha Franklin and Etta James — big, black, soulful women set to an acoustic guitar."

The emotional lyrics and moving rifts on Himan's "I Go On" — his third CD after "Invincible" and the self-titled "Eric Himan" — will form the base of his show on Atlanta Pride's acoustic stage next Saturday.

Listeners familiar with the easy groove of past Himan efforts should be happy with ballads like the haunting "Alone" and the confident "No Urgency."

But fans will also delight as Himan belts out songs like "I Ain't Done with You" with a distinctly more pounding beat that hearkens the classic soul divas he credits as influences.

HIMAN MOST OFTEN HEARS THAT HE sounds like Tracy Chapman — a comparison he embraces.

"I listen to her, and she's one of my favorites," he says. "So to be compared to her is a compliment, but what I like about it most is that it breaks the gender barrier, and that's very cool because music should be open to interpretation without gender being hooked to it."

Himan plays Atlanta regularly, including a gig at Eddie's Attic last month. And he likes the city for its openness to new artists, he says.

"Atlanta is more open to original music and new artists," Himan says. "Some cities like a lot of covers like a bar band, but Atlanta is a budding music town like Nashville, and they come to hear something new and are very welcoming."

And being gay necessarily colors Himan's perspective, but his music "is for everyone," he says.

Musician **Eric Himan** brings the intelligent lyrics and soulful style of his 'I Go On' CD to Atlanta Pride next week.

"I write about myself and things that happen to me, but mostly it's my issues with relationships, so it's something that everybody can relate to," he asserts.

ONE SONG ON "I GO ON" THAT IS getting "huge" attention from gay audiences is "The Man You Had in Mind," Himan says.

"I wrote the song to my family," he says. "I realized I was trying to be what they wanted me to be, but I realized that's just not who I am. I came home with all these tattoos, and then I came out to them, so I just wanted to say, 'I want to make you proud, but I have to do what is in my heart.'"

Being a musician "is just not a sit-down job," Himan says. "This is risky, but I feel it's really who I am."

Himan is already working on a new CD due out by the end of the year. From smart lyrics sung with soulful conviction to a powerful presence and marketable charm, this singer-songwriter appears poised for success.

MORE INFO

'I Go On'
Eric Himan
Crown Thumb Records
www.erichiman.com

Eric Himan at Atlanta Pride
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Verizon Wireless Acoustic Stage
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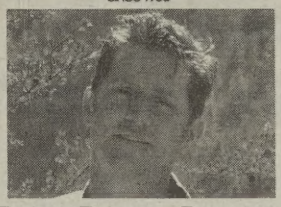

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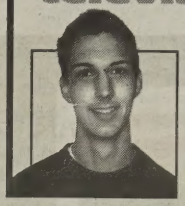


Brilliant debut marks beginning of the end for HBO's gay cult favorite, 'Sex and the City.'

Start of a sexy season

MOTHERHOOD AGREES WITH SARAH Jessica Parker — and her character Carrie Bradshaw.

No, the character Parker has played on HBO's Emmy Award-winning "Sex and the City" for the past five seasons did not have a child during the show's hiatus, unlike the actress herself.

But when Carrie bursts through her apartment door at the beginning of the first episode of the show's sixth season, which starts Sunday, June 22, she is better than ever.

Carrie is rushing down the street, trying to hail a cab to get to the New York Stock Exchange on time to ring the opening bell. It's the kind of scene that makes this show one of the most enjoyable to watch on television. It crackles with energy, it is fun and exciting and for a moment, the audience experiences what it must be like to be a 35-year-old fashionista in the big city.

And don't forget the outfit. In a simple, silver satin dress, a floral-print jacket with a big rhinestone pin on the lapel and a pair of three-inch heels to kill for, everything is perfect for Carrie.

AND EVERYTHING IS PERFECT FOR "Sex" addicts — those who can't get enough of this show — except that it all will end shortly.

This week's episode marks the beginning of the final season. Yet, for a show that breaks all the rules about fashion, relationships and sex, it also breaks the rules about what constitutes a "season."

The final season is compromised of 20 episodes, 12 to air this summer and eight more that will start in January of 2004.

Many fans will be wearing black Monolo Blahniks to mourn the show's passing, but based on the first episode, it's going to be a season to cherish.

When we left Carrie at the end of last season, she said goodbye to Mr. Big (Chris Noth) and Aidan (John Corbett) and began carrying a torch for fellow writer Jack Berger (Ron Livingston). Two of the three are back in the first episode.

Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) fell back in love with her baby's father Steve (David Eigenberg), Charlotte (Kristin Davis) had fallen in love with a coarse Jewish guy who won't marry her, and Samantha (Kim Cattrall), well, she was up to her old slutty tricks.

The first episode, written and directed by gay co-executive producer Michael Patrick King, picks up just where the show left off, and it's always at its most exciting when addressing new relationships — and with Samantha, there's a new relationship every week.

Miranda (**Cynthia Nixon**), Charlotte (**Kristin Davis**), Samantha (**Kim Cattrall**) and Carrie (**Sarah Jessica Parker**) are back for their final season of boyfriends, breakups, babies and of course, beautiful clothes. (Photo by Craig Blankenhorn/HBO)

There is no love like new love, and watching these ladies fall in love stirs up the old first-date jitters and mines them for comedic results.

With a hot stockbroker who's more into bondage than bonds, a first date from hell, and even a scene involving poo on the face, there's as much laughter as there is excitement.

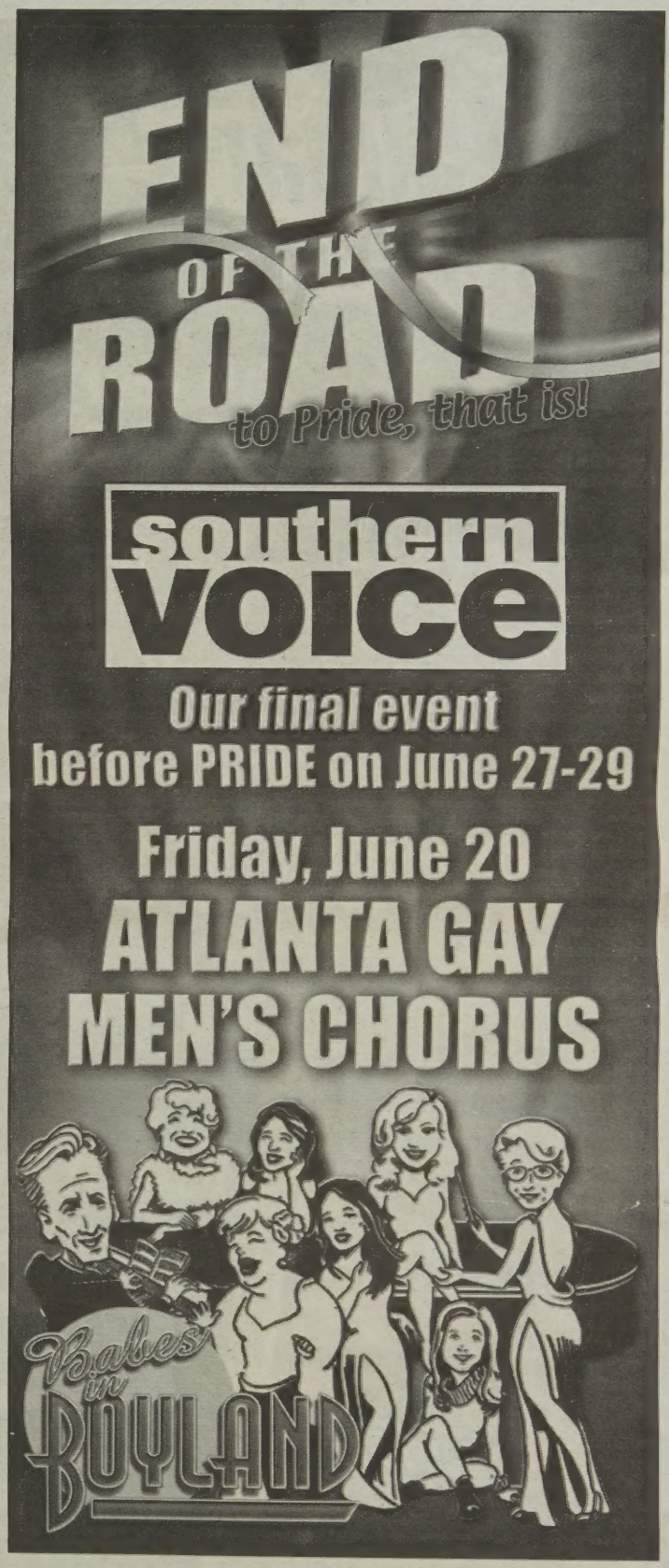
JUNE IS ALMOST OVER, BUT there's still time to catch some of the excitement on Sundance Channel's "Out Loud Month." For Gay Pride Month, the television arm of the independent film festival created its fifth consecutive festival of more than 50 gay-themed short films, feature films, documentaries and original programs.

Sundance, which is only available on digital cable and satellite, is always gay-friendly. But this month, it has something for the gay audience every day, especially during prime time.

There are wide-releases like "The Fluffer" and "Aimee & Jaguar," gay documentaries and some hard-to-find foreign films like the Chinese movie "East Palace, West Palace."

For all the gay movie buffs out there with access to the channel, this is the place to be.

MORE INFO
'Charlie Lawrence'
CBS
Sundays at 8:30 p.m.



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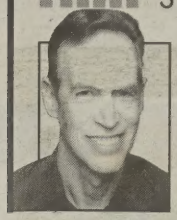

'L'Auberge espagnole' offers 'Real World' twist, multicultural appeal, **'Owning Mahowny'** explores gambling.

French film fodder

FEW FILMS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY the way "L'Auberge espagnole" does. It shows how messy and wonderful European unity can be in the context of what would be a first-rate romantic comedy in any culture.

Our French hero, 24-year-old Xavier (Romain Duris), goes to Barcelona for a year as part of a European exchange program, leaving behind his sweetheart, Martine (Audrey Tautou). At the airport in Barcelona, he meets a newlywed French couple, Anne-Sophie (Judith Godreche) and Jean-Michel (Xavier de Guillebon), with whom he stays until he finds an apartment.

The place he finds is right out of "The Real World," housing seven students from as many countries, including Isabelle from Belgium.

Xavier is interested in Isabelle, but when she says she has a girlfriend visiting from Belgium, she means she has a "girlfriend" visiting from Belgium. The X-man is cool with it and adjusts the basis of their friendship accordingly.

The parts of the film centering on Xavier are in French, and the subtitles could have used more proofreading. But when the roommates are together, there's a smattering of different languages spoken. Thankfully, they use English as a common language.

While his relationship with Martine deteriorates, Xavier finds a growing attraction to another roommate. Being French and a man, it's only a matter of time before he acts on it.

"The Real World" may be decent unscripted television, but "L'Auberge espagnole" shows how much better the concept can work with a script.

IN "OWNING MAHOWNY," CASTING Philip Seymour Hoffman as an ordinary guy with an extraordinary addiction is as close as you can come to a safe bet in the movie business — from a quality, not a commercial, standpoint. When the character's addiction is to gambling, a safe bet is what you want.

So many movies and television series use Toronto to substitute for U.S. cities. We forget there are actually stories to be told in Toronto. That's where, between 1980 and 1982, assistant bank manager Dan Mahowny (Hoffman) embezzled $10.2 million to feed his gambling habit.

Mahowny charges the money to various loan accounts he oversees and loses most of it at the Atlantic City casino run by Victor Foss (John Hurt), who makes a fortune off him and doesn't want to know where he gets his money.

Romain Duris (left) plays a man who goes to Barcelona for a year and leaves behind his sweetheart played by **Audrey Tautou** in 'L'Auberge espagnole.' (Photo by Jérome Plon)

Mahowny lives modestly with his girlfriend Belinda (Minnie Driver, gone blonde), who thinks he just likes to spend time at the track. When she realizes the extent of his addiction, she tries to help. But Mahowny won't acknowledge he has a gambling problem, only a "financial problem."

Hoffman plays Mahowny with his usual skill. His sad sack character isn't someone the audience will totally sympathize with, but it's impossible to despise him either.

You hope he can turn his life around but enjoy the ride while he doesn't. At least you want the guy to get some pleasure out of it before his inevitable fall.

Gay director Richard Kwietniowski ("Love and Death on Long Island") handles the straight subject matter beautifully, capping it off with a great final shot that's worth sitting through the credits for. It puts an interesting twist on this tale.

MORE INFO

'L'Auberge espagnole'
Opens June 20
Regal UA Tara
2345 Cheshire Bridge Road
404-634-6288
Queer Quotient: One of the main characters is an unabashed lesbian who teaches the leading man how to please a woman. A gag about mistaken gay identity is actually funny.

'Owning Mahowny'
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Lefont Plaza
1049 Ponce de Leon Ave.
404-873-1939
Queer Quotient: The director's gay. The movie isn't.

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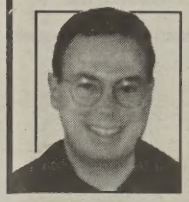


Sequel to popular gay men's novel, **'Where the Boys Are'** hits the circuit to **expose travails** of modern gay life.

Long journey worth taking

SIX YEARS AFTER WILLIAM J. MANN'S first novel, "The Men from the Boys," debuted, readers can now return to and devour the new travails of beloved characters Jeff O'Brien, spiritual Lloyd Griffith and sage, wisecracking Javitz in a sequel that is every bit as compelling the second time around.

"Where the Boys Are" starts on New Year's Eve 1999 at a circuit party in New York City, where Jeff and his best friend/protege Henry both pick up tricks who'll end up having greater impacts in their lives than they initially realize.

Since Javitz's death from AIDS four years previously, Jeff has immersed himself in the circuit party scene, following parties from city to city thanks to the generous inheritance Javitz left him. Lloyd has felt adrift since Javitz's death, but finds an apparently kindred spirit in Eva Horner, a middle-aged widow whose gay husband died of AIDS as well.

Jeff and Lloyd have been drifting back into each other's lives, but Lloyd's announcement that he plans to open a bed and breakfast in Provincetown with Eva drives them apart again. Jeff was expecting and dreading Lloyd wanting to move back in with him.

Instead, Jeff concentrates his energies on Anthony, his New Year's trick who now seems more like a treat. A hunky, wide-eyed younger man who views almost everything with genuine delight, Anthony has a mysterious past that he won't divulge and disappears once a week to an undisclosed locale.

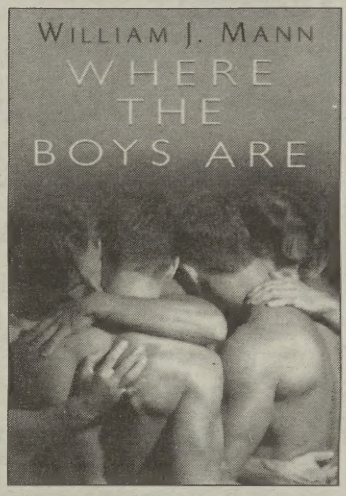
Anthony's clandestine activities rekindle Jeff's dormant investigative reporter instincts, and he vows to learn Anthony's secret, even if it means going behind his back.

Meanwhile, bolstered by his trick Shane's semi-serious offer to pay him for sex, Henry embarks upon a life of hustling on the Internet, and Lloyd begins doubting the wisdom of his dream when Eva starts exhibiting increasingly erratic behavior.

"WHERE THE BOYS ARE" IS THE FIRST gay novel set in the circuit scene that captures both its positive and negative aspects. Jeff comes to the dance floor to feel alive again, "swallowed up by a moist cocoon of four hundred men with the music spinning me higher and higher until it's taken control..."

But Mann doesn't shy from depicting the rampant drug abuse or the pains of revelers seeking escape on the dance floor. And as Henry grouses, very little actual hooking up takes place.

"Everyone's either too tired, too wasted, or too scared of rejection to pair off,"



Mann writes.

Because his characters share many of the same concerns that other gay men do — fears of not making ends meet, fears of commitment, hating lousy jobs and fretting that they'll never find a long-lasting relationship — readers will quickly care again for these characters and their troubles.

Mann has his finger on the pulse of many gay men in their thirties whose priorities shift from endless partying and tricking to thoughts of the longterm future.

And he never lets us forget that AIDS has not gone away. Lloyd and Jeff despair the prevailing denial mentality, and Jeff does his best to combat it within his younger friends. But he feels like an utter fraud in Javitz's role of mentor.

BY COMBINING DRAMA WITH MYSTERY, Mann has crafted another winning novel which successfully articulates the angst, hopes and dreams of a large cross-section of gay men.

His characters talk, think, act and react like real people. Even very minor characters like the head librarian in Jeff's Connecticut hometown shine in their brief moments.

Some readers might balk at the novel's 436-page length, but the journey to "Where the Boys Are" is a trek definitely worth taking.

FOR MORE INFO

'Where the Boys Are'
By William J. Mann
Kensington, hardcover
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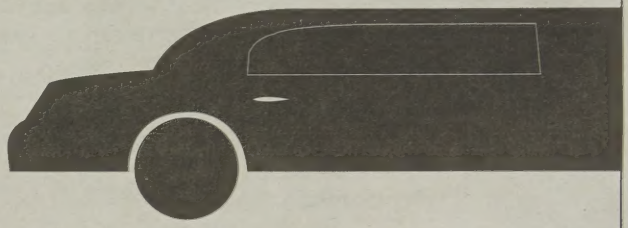

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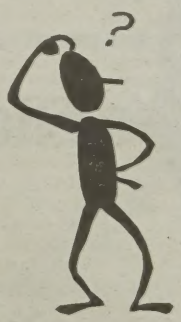

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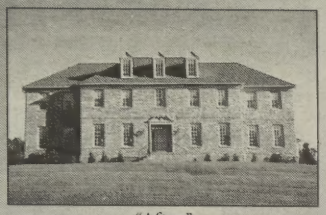

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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Gay musician once married to Liza

focus of **new Broadway musical**

with 'X-Men' hottie Hugh **Jackman**.

Playing Peter Allen

AS MANY FOUND OUT WHEN HE hosted the June 8 Tony Awards, very heterosexual Australian heartthrob **HUGH JACKMAN** signed on to play the role of late gay singer and songwriter **PETER ALLEN** in "The Boy From Oz."

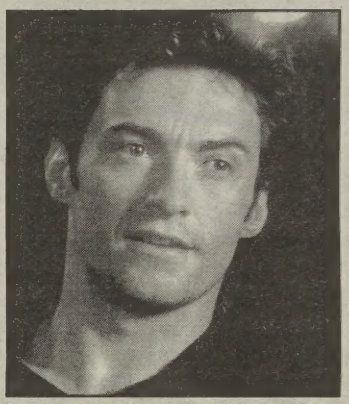
Allen, who died in 1992, was once married to **LIZA MINNELLI,** whose mom, **JUDY GARLAND**, is credited with discovering him in the early '60s.

Allen was born in Australia and began his career at age 11 singing in country pubs. He became a television star five years later. As the story goes, Garland heard him perform and was so impressed that she took him along on tour as one of her musicians and then began to plug his solo career.

Allen married Minnelli in 1967, but they split up two years later and eventually divorced. He died in 1992 from AIDS-related complications.

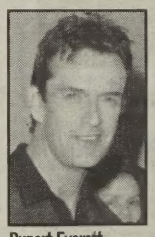
He was famous for his cabaret acts and singing, but Allen is perhaps best known for writing songs that hit the top of the charts, including "I Honestly Love You" for fellow Aussie **OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN** and "Don't Cry Out Loud" for **MELISSA MANCHESTER**. He co-wrote "Best That You Can Do," the theme from Minnelli's 1981 movie "Arthur," with **BURT BACHARACH, CAROL BAYER SAGER** and **CHRISTOPHER CROSS**.

The new musical, directed by **PHILIP MCKINLEY** and choreographed by **JOEY MCKNEELY,** will feature Allen's songs as well as highlights about his life. Previews for "The Boy From Oz" begin in New York in September, and the musical officially opens in October.



Hugh Jackman is scheduled to portray gay singer and songwriter **Peter Allen** in 'The Boy From Oz,' a new musical. (Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox)

GAY ACTOR **RUPERT EVERETT** IS beautiful, wealthy and has the dubious distinction of being one of **MADONNA**'s former movie co-stars and friends. But currently, his career isn't exactly taking off.



Rupert Everett

The Los Angeles Times reports that NBC opted not to pick up Everett's series pilot, "Mr. Ambassador," which would have featured him as a gay English ambassador to the U.S. living in Washington, D.C.

But Everett still has a chance to be on television. In 2000, he made a movie titled "Unconditional Love" with **KATHY BATES** that debuts on the cable network Starz! in August.

The movie, directed by P.J. Hogan, who worked with Everett on "My Best Friend's Wedding," features Bates as a housewife and Everett as a valet who join forces to solve the murder of a pop star they both adored.

BARRY MANILOW RECENTLY walked into a wall, hit his nose and knocked himself out cold for four hours.

Don't laugh. This is serious.

The mishap took place when Manilow returned home to Palm Springs from Malibu where he was producing an album for gay icon **BETTE MIDLER**, his former boss when they toured the New York City bathhouse circuit together, among other appearances.

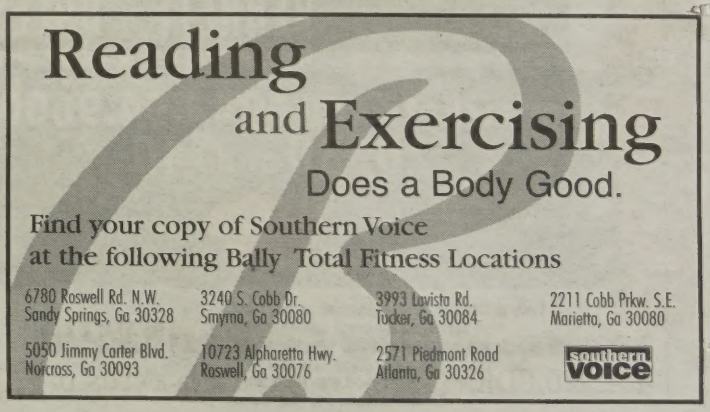
The story begins with Manilow, 56, recently residing in Malibu for two weeks to work with Midler on a tribute CD to honor **ROSEMARY CLOONEY**.

The injury occurred when he returned home from California, woke up disoriented in the middle of the night, thought he was still in Malibu, and "veered to the left instead of the right and slammed right into the wall," according to a release from his management company, Stiletto Entertainment.

Manilow, who is also working on his own two-disc project titled, "Two Nights Live," wasn't seriously injured, but the accident left his nose swollen and his pride a bit bruised.

"I may have to have my nose fixed, and with this nose, it's going to require major surgery," the singer told Reuters.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.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Mainstreaming gay theater

Gay directors among some of Atlanta's most influential

By JIM FARMER

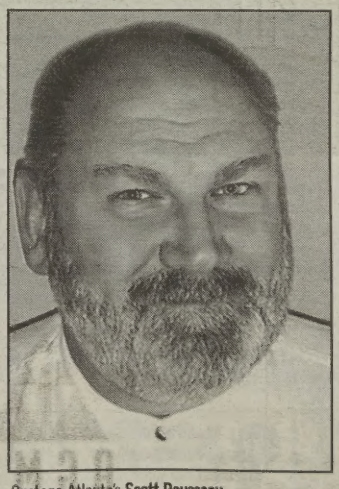
ATLANTA'S THEATER COMMUNITY IS known for its diverse fare, with fairly commonplace gay-themed shows. In addition to its own all-gay theater company, local stages are also noted for a high number of visible and powerful gay folks behind the scenes at mainstream theaters.

Among the most influential are Kent Gash, associate artistic director at Alliance Theatre; partners John Gibson and Anthony Morris, artistic directors of Peachtree Playhouse and Ansley Park Playhouse; Palmer Wells, artistic director of Theater in the Square; Scott Rousseau, artistic director of Onstage Atlanta; and Kate Warner, artistic associate at Theatrical Outfit and Dad's Garage.

All six of these talented directors say that Atlanta is a solid market for gay-themed work. But they share different opinions on other issues, such as the viability of having theater that is all gay, all the time.

"Sure, Atlanta has a lot of shows that appeal to the community," says Rousseau, who directs his share of gay-themed productions, including the beauty pageant spoof "Pageant," the campy musical "Whoop Dee Do!" and the current "Rocky Horror Show."

Rousseau recently took over Onstage Atlanta and moved the venue to a new location. For much of his Atlanta career, Rousseau worked for others, but now he calls the shots.



Onstage Atlanta's **Scott Rousseau**

Alliance Theater's **Kent Gash**

He doesn't feel pressure to do gay work, but he does feel a certain obligation, he says.

"I never feel like to I have to do any show," he says. "No one's going to say 'Where is Onstage's gay show?' if we don't include one. But I feel I am in a position now where I can be inclusive. I feel obligated to put out a well-rounded season."

Besides the recent "Psycho Beach Party," Rousseau presents the smash hit "Love! Valour! Compassion!" next year.

THE NEWEST KID ON THE GAY BLOCK, Gash has yet to direct a gay-themed work in Atlanta. But he did persuade Alliance Artistic Director Susan Booth to include "Shakespeare's R and J," the all-male version of "Romeo and Juliet," in her inaugural season.

He also directed local shows by Tennessee Williams and Stephen Sondheim and admits that being gay probably makes him more attracted to gay playwrights.

As someone who directs throughout the country, Gash likes what he sees locally, but he wishes for more diversity, he says.

"Some smaller theaters are doing a great job of presenting gay-themed work by gay writers, directors and performers," he says. "I wish that there were more work for and about men of color. We can diversify our work and tell more stories that are inclusive of more than just upper middle class white male sensibility."

Atlanta could support a theater doing exclusively gay work, Gash asserts.

"I don't think a company doing it could ever fill a space like the Fox," he says. "But for a smaller company, yes. I'd like to think they could make it, if the work was good."

KATE WARNER IS ARGUABLY THE highest profile lesbian in Atlanta's theater scene. Her recent successes include the comic "Madonna Obsessive Support Group" and "Weird Comic Book Fantasy" at Dad's Garage.

"I don't think anyone would disagree that more gay work could be done, but I like what I'm seeing," she says. "It's getting better. Shows are being done, and it's now a matter of getting the word out."

Warner started in Atlanta with gay-centric SAME when it was still around and worked steadily for years ever since.

"Atlanta has been great for me," she says. "I have been able to develop my voice — my gay voice — and have not felt limited in my choices or the opportunities I've had."

Warner is currently directing a remount of the campy musical "The People vs. Mona."

AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of Theater in the Square, Wells also helms many gay-themed shows, including "M. Butterfly" and "Gross Indecency: The

Please see **GAY THEATER** on **Page 65**

Dad's Garage and Theatrical Outfit's **Kate Warner**

appts.

FRIDAY JUNE 20

Process Theatre Company hosts gay playwright Topher Payne's latest work about a family of friends and blood relatives, '**Relations Unknown**,' on Thursday - Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m. through June 29 at Dad's Garage Top Shelf Theatre, 280 Elizabeth St., Suite C-104. 404-586-9860.

FRIDAY JUNE 20 – SATURDAY JUNE 21

The **Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus** welcomes lady singers from the Atlanta cabaret scene for '**Babes in Boyland**,' a Broadway-style show of pop hits and favorites of the Great White Way, at 8 p.m. at Ferst Center for the Arts, 349 Ferst Drive, NW. 404-894-9600, www.tickets.com, www.agmchorus.org

MONDAY JUNE 23

Local drag host **Peg** tapes '**Night of 150 Stars**,' the 150th episode of her cable access show 'Mouth of the South Live,' at 9:30 p.m. at the Armory, 836 Juniper St. 404-881-9280, www.armoryatlanta.net

THURSDAY JUNE 26 – SATURDAY JUNE 28

More than 150 life-size painted fiberglass cows, including at least three by gay artists, stampede into **CowParade Atlanta**, kicking off at Centennial Olympic Park, 265 Park Ave. W. 404-898-2915, www.cowparadeatlanta.com

FRIDAY JUNE 27

Celebrate Pride as **Coff-E House** welcomes African-American poetry and music presented by Charis Circle at 7:30 p.m. at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Drive. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

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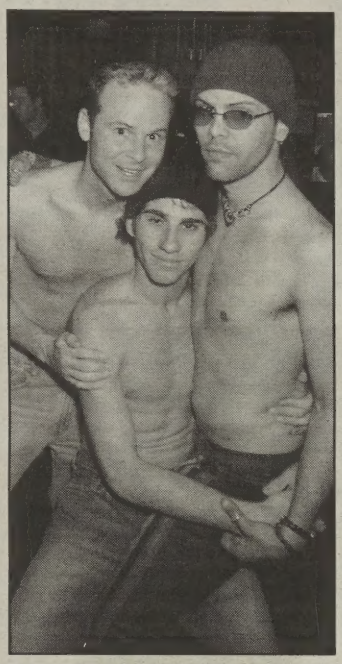


Skin is in during **Dress Code Wednesdays** at The **Heretic**. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

FRIDAY JUNE 20

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m. & 1 a.m. 404-881-9280

BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. 404-873-1986.

BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 6-8 p.m. 404-892-5786.

BLU. 404-877-1221.

THE BREAKING POINT. Gong show talent contest, late karaoke. 770-426-4199

BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop. 404-872-3025.

COLOURS. Hip Hop and house night. 678-702-0872.

EAGLE. 404-873-2453.

EL CHAPARRAL. Gay night. 2715 Buford Highway. 404-634-3737

HERETIC. Sweat, 10 p.m.-4 a.m. 404-325-3061.

LE BUZZ. TGIF celebration. 770-424-1337.

MARY'S. "Danceteria," 9 p.m. 404-624-4411.

METRO. Boys and Bodies, 10 p.m.

MODEL T. Le Box All Male Revue, 10p.m. 404-872-2209.

MY SISTER'S ROOM. 404-370-1990.

OSCAR'S. 404-874-7748.

RED CHAIR. 404-870-0532

RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. 404-873-3220

SATURDAY JUNE 21

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. Also, Miss Pride National pageant.

BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Super Saturdays Talent Show.

BULLDOGS. Old school, hip hop, and urban dance music.

COLOURS. Male review party with men from original Jaguar, midnight.

LE BUZZ. Dixie Encore with Tequila Mockingbird, 10:30p.m.

MARY'S. "Beat Surrender," 9:30 p.m.

METRO. Caliente! Latin music, 10 p.m.

MODEL T. Drag show featuring the Model Teez Girlz, 11p.m.

THE BREAKING POINT. Dance party, kitchen's open 5-11p.m.

TRIPPS. Linda Michaels' showcase showdown, first and third Saturdays, 10 p.m. and midnight. 404-724-0067

SUNDAY JUNE 22

BACKSTREET. "Sunday Church", 2 a.m.

BLAKE'S. Blake's Big Time Drag Review, 9:30 p.m.

EAGLE. Now open 6 p.m. to midnight.

HERETIC. Now open 12:30 p.m. to midnight, dancefloor 6 p.m. to midnight.

METRO. Sunday Tea, 4 p.m.-midnight.

RED CHAIR. Brunch, 11:30-3:00 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, Deva Station and Fajita Marinara, 9 p.m.

TRIPPS. Sunday starters with Tami.

MONDAY JUNE 23

ARMORY. 'Mouth of the South LIVE,' 150th episode includes special guests, 9:30 p.m.

BUDDIES ON CHESHIRE BRIDGE. Free pool until 8 p.m. 404-634-5895.

BULLDOGS. Feel good house night.

BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7p.m. Kitty LeClaw hosts karaoke, 10 p.m.

EAGLE. Free pool and favorite rock music.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Music Trivia, 8-10 p.m. 404-875-6634.

LE BUZZ. Girls night out.

METRO. Trash '80s, 10 p.m.

OSCAR'S. Service industry night, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Dinner & a.m. movie, 7:30 p.m.

RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. Karaoke, 9 p.m. 404-873-3220.

THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool, forming new dart leagues.

TUESDAY JUNE 24

ARMORY. 'Too Hot' Tuesdays with Heather Daniels and Chili.

BACKSTREET. Deep, down and dirty, 10 p.m.-close.

BULLDOGS. Solution dance ritual.

BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7p.m. Karaoke with Tyler King, 10 p.m.

EAGLE. Free pool and favorite rock music.

HOEDOWNS. Beginning two-step free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia Challenge, 8-10 p.m.

LE BUZZ. Truth or Dare Trivia & Karaoke, 8 p.m.

MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.

METRO. Latin House, 10 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Ladies Night. Drag Kings at 10 p.m. 10:30 p.m. and 11p.m.

THE BREAKING POINT. Wet t-shirt contests, truth or dare.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

ARMORY. Pandamonium – Death by Disco, 9 p.m.

BACKSTREET. Spotlight, 1 a.m.

BLAKE'S. Blake's Boys, 10:30 p.m.

BULLDOGS. Hip Hop, Urban Beats.

BURKHART'S. Gospel revival with Morticia DeVille & the Gospel Girls, 8:45 p.m.

COLOURS. Go-go dancers with men of the original Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.

EAGLE. Retro dance music.

HAZE. Gay night. 404-249-8900.

HERETIC. Dress code party, 10 p.m.-4a.m.

HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate two-step free dance lessons.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Live music by Alice Muson and Friends on 100-seat patio, weather permitting.

LE BUZZ. Dance Out Loud, Rump Night,10 p.m.

METRO. Class & Ass Show at midnight starring Felicia Sapphire, Neasia and Yanae.

OSCAR'S. Comedy Night, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Lust & Bust Show starring Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks, Martina Diamante, and Ashley Kruiz, 10 p.m.

RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. Leather, Levi fetish night, 9 p.m.

SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover with bar-employee ID. 404-352-0532.

THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.

TRIPPS. Covergirl karaoke with Crystal, 11 p.m.

THURSDAY JUNE 26

ARMORY. Diamond Divas and Platinum Boys with Monica Van Pelt, 11:30 p.m.

BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-rated Cabaret, 11 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Calendar Boy Contest, 10:30 p.m.

BULLDOGS. Trash disco, soulful house, and hip-hop.

BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

COLOURS. Latin Night. Drag show with Cliques Buenestro, midnight.

EAGLE. Underwear party with clothes check.

HERETIC. Rapture Party, 10 p.m.-4a.m.

HOEDOWNS. Line waltz free dance lessons, 8p.m.

JOE'S ON JUNIPER. 80s retro trivia.

LE BUZZ. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.

METRO. The Pride Show with Silhouettes of Illusions, midnite.

MODEL T. Talent search with Jewell Holiday, 10 p.m.

OSCAR'S. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.

RED CHAIR. Karaoke with Ruby Red, 9:30 p.m.

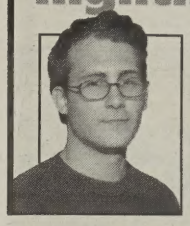
RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. S.H.E. meeting, 7 p.m.

THE BREAKING POINT. Piano & band night.

TRIPPS. Country night with Ron "Big Lick" Haller and Ms. Big Pretty, 9 p.m. – 4 a.m.

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

nightlife CHRISTOPHER SEELY



Wednesdays at Mary's give gay guys **who like to rock** a place on the dance floor.

Disco punks' night out

A RED NEON "M" NEAR THE intersection of Flat Shoals Road and Glenwood Avenue in East Atlanta Village flashes like a beacon for gay men who like to skip the Midtown bar scene.

It beckons them to Mary's, a gay video bar where it is possible on certain nights for everyone to know your name — either because of the distinctive neighborhood vibe it offers, or sometimes, because hardly anybody's there.

More variety is just what Atlanta gay bars need, according to DJs Ben & Bill, the two guys behind the video booth at Mary's every Wednesday and Friday night.

"I try not to think about the music in other Atlanta gay bars," says Ben Cheaves, half of the duo. "I'm not a big fan of diva circuit house music. Atlanta needs more fag bars that play rock music to give people more of a choice."

Bill Overall, the team's other half, agrees.

"It would be nice to see more diversity in the kinds of music some bars play," he says. "The majority of techno-cover-Hi NRG stuff all sounds the same to me."

A small staple of young gay men make it to Mary's each Wednesday to get free stuff and dance to music not played in other gay bars. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO

Mary's
1287 Glenwood Ave., SE
404-624-4411

DJs **Ben Cheaves** (foreground) and **Bill Overall** offer an alternative to house music on Wednesday nights at Mary's. (Photo courtesy Cheaves and Overall)

Cheaves and Overall took over Monday Brit Pop night at Mary's in May 2002 and quickly switched to Wednesdays last August, dubbing it "Atomic Night" — a night for disco punks to come out and dance without the cover charge and "diva house music" of other gay dance venues.

"It seems like DiscoPunk is a much more useful description of the type of music we like to play," Cheaves says.

ATOMIC NIGHTS OFTEN INCLUDE free CDs for patrons and always showcase videos that Cheaves and Overall edited themselves.

"We just started making them out of frustration because we really wanted to play certain songs, but we didn't have any videos for them," Cheaves says.

The pair's homemade Wednesday repertoire includes "Frank Sinatra" and "Stripper" by Miss Kitten, "Get Me Off" by Peaches, "Boys Club" by W.I.T. and "Do I Look Like a Slut?" by Avenue D, among several other "DiscoPunk" videos and campier montages like "Xanadu Blowout" by Olivia Newton-John and ELO.

The "Frank Sinatra" video shows footage of the real-life crooner singing and moving his body in rhythm with Miss Kitten's beat, spliced with a rapid succession of gay porn shots during the song's chorus.

"It's pretty amazing what you can do on a cheap computer these days," Overall says.

Cheaves and Overall incorporate the appeal of the male physique into several of their videos.

In the video created for Peaches' "Get Me Off," the DJs use 1960s Athletic Model Guild beefcake footage of model Joe Dallesandro, made famous by Andy Warhol.

Last week, the DJs learned that their video for "Boys Club" by W.I.T. — which also includes Athletic Model Guild footage — made its debut in New York City's hip gay club Opaline on Friday, June 13.

WEDNESDAYS ALSO OFFER AN ALTernative to the usual Midtown bar scene when several of the gay boys who get wound up at Mary's head over to MJQ for unadulterated late-night dancing at the club's Brit Pop night.

The dance floor at MJQ is larger than Mary's and welcomes a mixed crowd of young gays, hip '80s-retro club kids, bar flies and other creatures of the late-late night.

The club is literally underground near the parking lot of Rico's View on Ponce, and can be hard to find for neophytes. But a little searching and knowing the right people can lead to a decided departure for the adventurous.

Mary's crowd can be slam-packed or sparse, but Wednesdays always offer unique music and videos that rarely, appear anywhere else in Atlanta. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

BEN & BILL'S TOP 10

'DiscoPunk' playlist

1. 'Train' Goldfrapp
2. 'Sudden Rush' Erlend Oye
3. 'Hot in Here' Tiga
4. 'When I See You' Macy Gray
5. 'Seven Nation Army' The White Stripes
6. 'In This City' Enon
7. 'Rock Your Body' Justin Timberlake
8. 'Danger! High Voltage' Soulchild Mix, Electric Six
9. 'Seven Days A Week' The Sounds
10. 'Boys Club' W.I.T.

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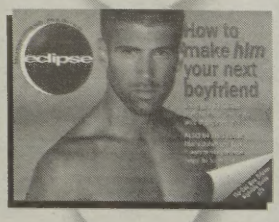

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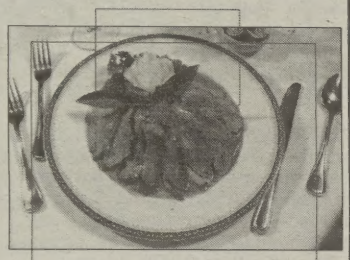

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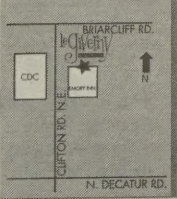

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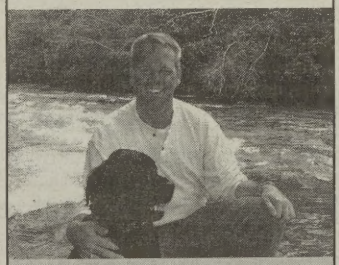

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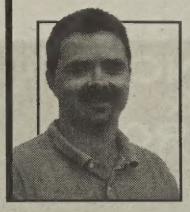


Two current productions offer some shining moments, but 'Dykes,' 'Batboy' could use **more than a little polish.**

Uneven but hard to dismiss

THE PREMISE OF THE NEW ESTRO-Fest show "Dykes With Baggage" is a droll one — that lesbians know therapy better than anyone.

That's certainly debatable — aren't gay men up there as well? — but it lends itself to an evening of hit-and-miss shrink humor.

Based on the book "Dykes With Baggage: The Lighter Side of Lesbians in Therapy," edited by Riggin Waugh, the comedy is a hodgepodge of skits centered around psychotherapy. All the characters are played by performers Deisha Oliver, Melissa Travis and Heather Starkel.

In the show's defense, it can be funny, touching and revelatory. In Kelli Dunham's "Crazy is as Crazy Does," a bipolar and queer young woman (Oliver) — quoting the Muppets — addresses the audience.

Another poignant skit is about a young woman's decision to keep her very human, undetached shrink. Some of the lines, too, are humorous, such as when a character scoffs at an idea with the line "I'd rather use a cactus as a tampon."

BUT "DYKES WITH BAGGAGE" CAN also be monotonous and full of itself. It works maybe half the time, with quite a number of inert sketches early on and a few that seem half-written.

Director Ruth Anna Milliman has assembled a playful cast who often transcend the material — especially Starkel, who makes a nice comeback from the "Manna" debacle.

EstroFest is one of Atlanta's newer companies and is devoted to the development, production and promotion of women artists and new works.

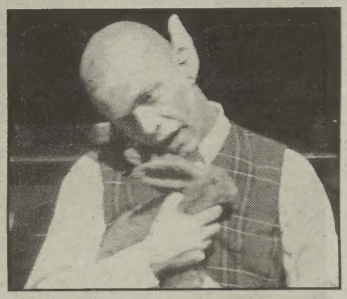
"Dykes With Baggage" is the kind of show you root for, but it only really comes alive in doses. I'd love to see a remount sometime with some of the sillier moments cut and more skits where the show manages to combine its sharp observations with real laughs.

THE CULT FAVE "BAT BOY: THE Musical" is on the Dad's Garage stage after two weeks at the Alliance Hertz Stage as part of the City Series.

The play begins as miners in West Virginia find a half boy, half bat (Clifton Guterman) in a cave and take him back to town. He is nurtured there by Meredith (Patty Guenther), the wife of veterinarian Dr. Parker (Geoff Uterhardt).

As a teenager, BatBoy just wants to fit in but is always aware that he is an outsider. The townsfolk are naturally skeptical of him.

Much has been made about the less-than-stellar voices in this show, and it's a point well taken. Guterman, Hames and a few others are quite adept, but others need polish.



The talents of gay actor **Clifton Guterman** — who wowed audiences in last year's 'Beautiful Thing' — can't completely save the campy 'Bat Boy: The Musical' at Dad's Garage.

The songs aren't that memorable, either. It's as if creators Brian Flemming, Laurence O'Keefe and Keythe Farley spent all their time on the concept and maybe an afternoon on the lyrics.

But "BatBoy" is the kind of play where the music isn't that important. Director Sean Daniels keeps the show moving, even in the first act when BatBoy is a secondary character. Daniels shows his typically quirky side with some inspired puppetry near the end, as "Batboy's" true story is revealed, and in a show-stopping revival scene.

An Off-Broadway hit, "BatBoy" is a bit clunky. But the show has an odd appeal..

Guterman is quite believable as the creature, initially biting miners and going batty in his cage, but then becoming a refined young man under the tutelage of his new mother.

His co-stars also don't overplay, fully in on the campy nature of the show. Taken with a grain of salt, "BatBoy" is likely to put a smile on your face.

It's not nearly the show it could be, but if you can dismiss a play with lyrics such as "the cows are all dead, and the rent is overdue," then your fangs are sharper than mine.

MORE INFO

'Dykes With Baggage'
1123 Zonolite Road
Push-Push Theater
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'Bat Boy'
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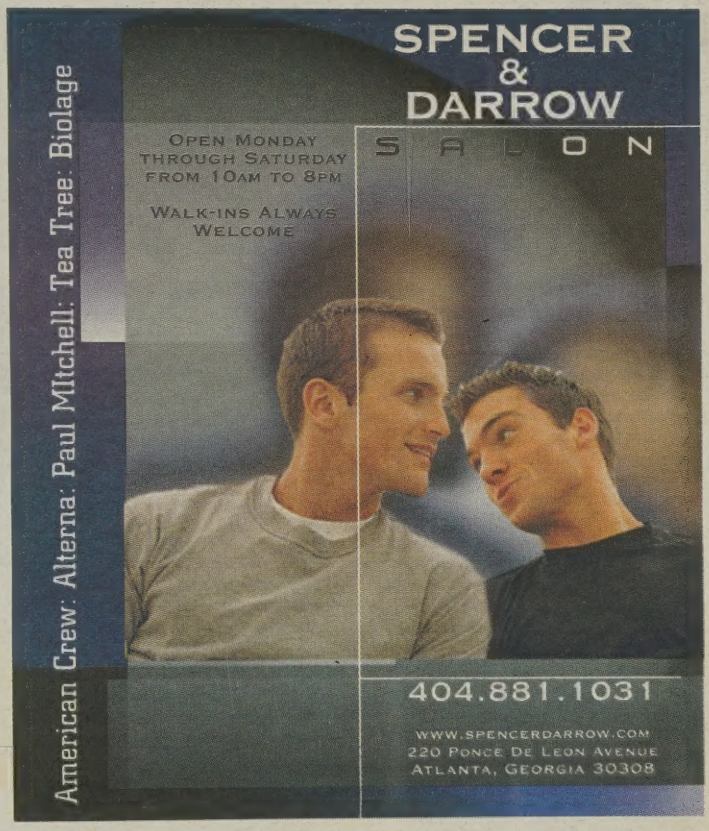
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'World Persons' can throw on all-black ensembles, **walk in Birkenstocks** over to Little Five Points and enjoy **Miro's**.

Dining in the Avant Garden

A LOOSE SET OF SIGNIFIERS DEFINES the demographic I call World Persons. Any one of them can qualify you for membership: visible piercings; Birkenstock sandals; facility in more than one language; a laptop containing your post-structuralist criticism; an MP3 player playing the latest hits from Senegal; all black attire; all hemp attire ... You get the idea.

World Persons make loyal patrons of eateries like Apres Diem in the Midtown Promenade. They enjoy feeling welcome whether lingering for hours over a single espresso, slamming back cosmos in succession or supping on full meals that may incorporate the scents of, say, Morocco and Burma.

World Persons — and others — now have another such place to hang, Miro's Garden, in Little Five Points.

The side salad at Miro's Garden — a sweetish concoction of spinach, arugula, goat cheese, pine nuts, a few thousand too many dried cranberries and a pink raspberry vinaigrette — isn't the only thing that reminds me of Apres Diem.

So do the easy-going internationalist spirit of the place and the slightly heavy hand in the kitchen. It comes as no surprise that the proprietor used to own the defunct Midtown cultural pot-au-feu Yin-Yang Café.

MIRO'S GARDEN, THE FORMER LA Fonda space, is a big, airy, shed-like structure reached from the street down a long corridor hung with art for sale. Both this and the rear entrance require negotiating stairs. Wheelchair-bound Persons, World or other, can stop reading now, I'm afraid.

A high, translucent roof and a burbling fountain make it seem like the dining room is open to the elements, which it actually is not. But it's a pleasant illusion.

The restaurant is named for the Spanish modernist painter Joan Miro, and the décor reprises his saturated reds and blues, as well as his distinctive whimsical motifs that foreshadowed pop art.

Spain also informs the menu, which offers a nice selection of traditional tapas ($3-8). There are less traditional salads ($5-10), a trio of sandwiches ($7-8) and three entrée platters ($14-16).

One of the latter is a "chipotle marinated airline chicken breast with saffron and scallion rice." It's yummy-sounding except for the airline reference, which may hearken for World Persons a cattle-car flight from Bali they remember with disdain.

Among the tapas, a dish of golden-roasted potatoes bathed in cumin seed-infused oil is simple and flawless.

So are the five good-sized garlic shrimp, marinated and flash-grilled until the edges are just charred but the flesh is a point. They are served on a bed of field greens and accompanied by a red sauce that is both hot in temperature and with spice.

The gazpacho is rustic, hearty and thick enough to hold a standing spoon. It is made from all the usual ingredients of tomato, cucumber and red onion, but it's distinguished and enriched by the addition of puree of roasted red pepper. It is assertively — but not too — garlicky.

Crusty, chewy hot rolls arrive alongside it.

ANOTHER SALAD CHOICE IS OF spinach, fresh mozzarella and marinated red and yellow tomatoes. This too is an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink arrangement, including pine nuts, red onions and black olives.

The dressing is a treacle of reduced balsamic vinegar. The mozzarella is only of middling quality, but this enormous salad only costs $7.

Those tomatoes appear in five of the 21 menu items. They're good enough, but it comes off like a failure of imagination.

The grilled flank steak on an entrée plate is tender and flavorful. Its onion-parsley pesto is rather sharp with onion.

But the real problem is the bendable, tinny steak knife. Call me a picky queen, but that knife would prevent me from ordering this again. Hey, God is in the details. Maybe the folks at Miro's Garden can give those a bit more attention.

Miro's garden

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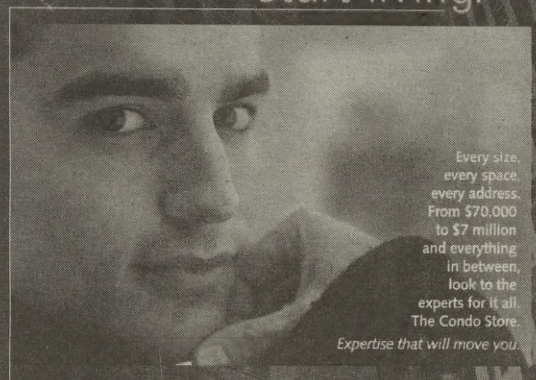

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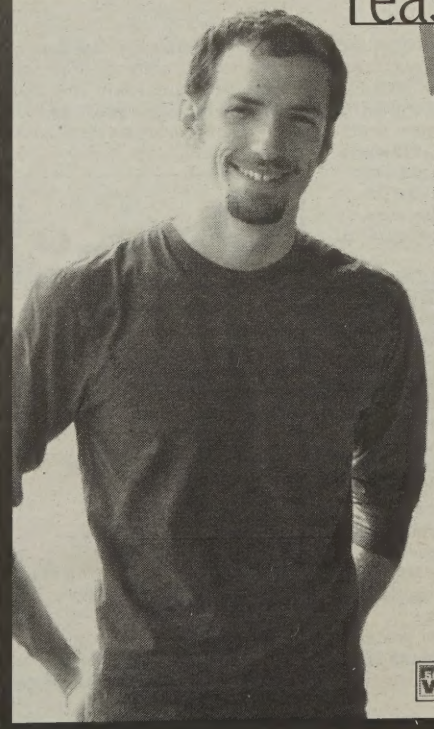

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Gay directors influence local theater

GAY THEATER, continued from Page 57

Theatre in the Square's **Palmer Wells**

Three Trails of Oscar Wilde."

Gay material is increasingly marketable over his years in the business, he says.

"I definitely think that shows with gay themes have become mainstream," Wells says. "The irony about 'Gross Indecency' is that it was very successful commercially and had a very straight audience. Not many gay people saw it."

The Cobb County Commission passed its now-infamous resolution calling the gay "lifestyle" incompatible with "community standards" in 1993 after Theater in the Square staged "Lips Together, Teeth Apart." But Wells continues to present similar work.

He claims his subscribers have never shied away from shows with gay content, but he does say that a company that tries to do exclusively gay work might be limiting itself.

"We do gay work, but we cater to all, not to one particular kind of audience," he says.

MORRIS AND GIBSON, LIFE PARTNERS as well as business collaborators, began their "Veranda" trilogy in Atlanta well over a decade ago. After opening the for-profit Peachtree Playhouse in 1999, the two boast a long list of successful plays.

Their farce "Peachtree Battle" holds the distinction as the longest running show in Atlanta theater history.

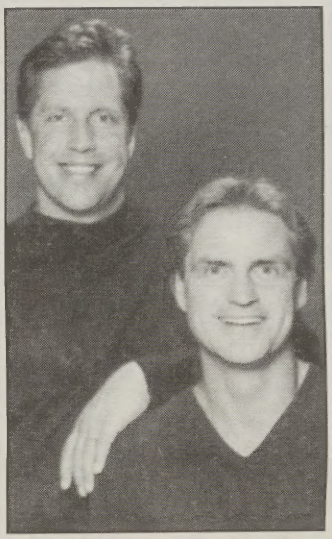
The majority of the pair's work includes gay characters, but none of their shows are specifically gay. And that's the way the couple prefers it, they say.

"We want shows that everyone can come see, plays we can bring our parents to," Morris says.

"Gay audiences helped us get our footing, and we have kept them," Gibson agrees. "But we've been able to cross over."

But a gay theater troupe has a hard row to hoe, he says.

"There is a lot of great gay work in the city, but I really don't think gay theater by itself can survive," Gibson says. "I think that niche theaters can have a hard time."



Anthony Morris (left) and **John Gibson** of Peachtree Playhouse and Ansley Playhouse

WITH THE DISBANDING OF ATLANTA'S "Funny...That Way" a few years back, the new Theatre OUTlanta is now the only company in town dealing exclusively with gay-themed work.

According to Nina Gooch, artistic director of Theatre OUTlanta, "we definitely believe there is a future for this company. As gay people, we like seeing plays about ourselves, and there is a need and a market for that."

MORE INFO

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Ansley Park Playhouse
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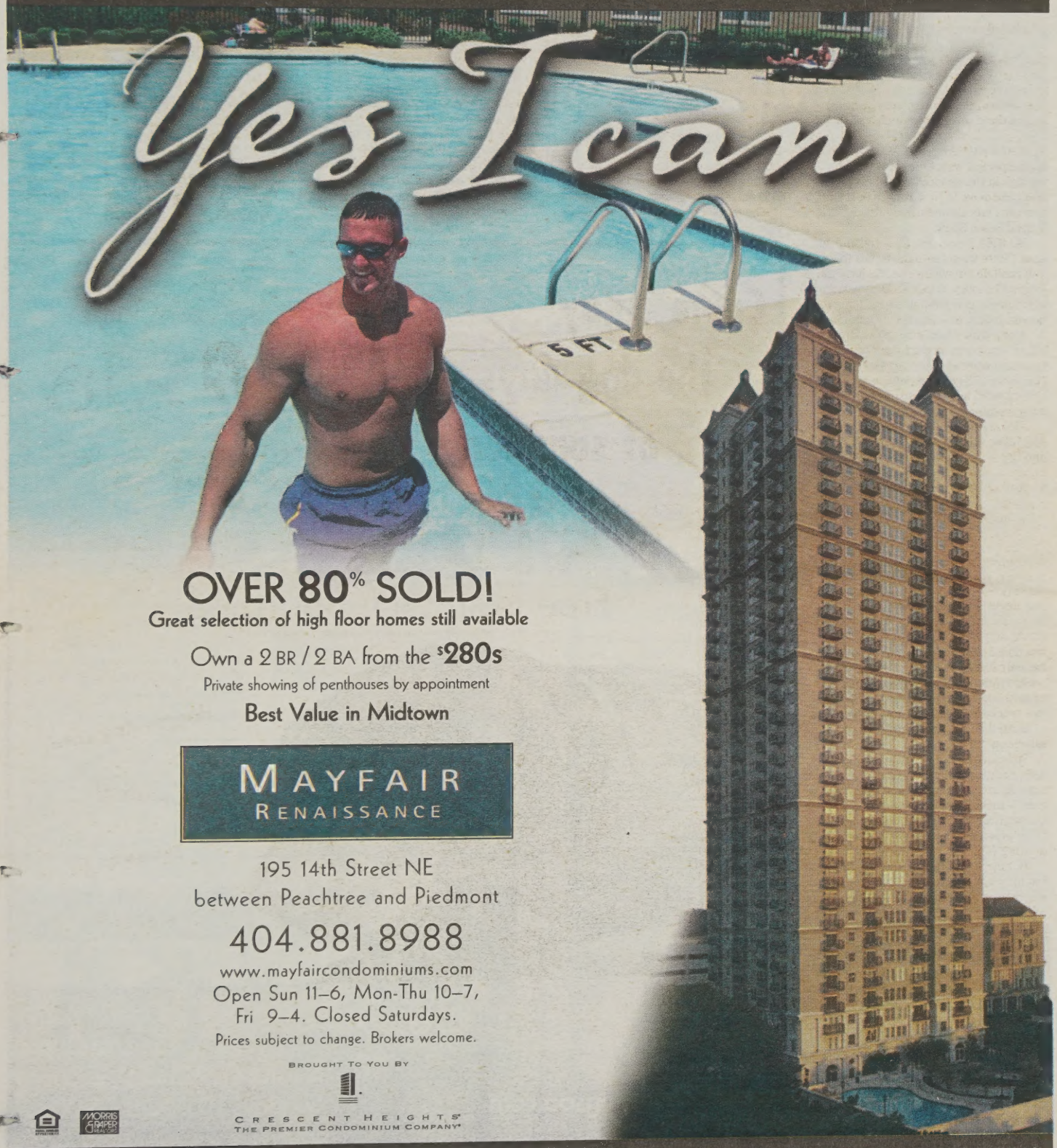

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Satellite radio interest grows with gay channel launch

GAY RADIO, continued from Page 45

ure," he says, adding that he came to Sirius to continue to serve those users. "I believe the outcry that came after GAYBC was dismantled shows how significant a desire there was to have such a service."

FORMER HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN spokesperson Wayne Besen believed enough in the service to leave his job at HRC and move to New York to host OutQ's morning talk show, fittingly titled "The Wayne Besen Show."

"At HRC, it was strictly activism," he says. "Here we get into the issues in a way you can't do anywhere else. We have the time and energy to talk about issues from every angle. Our community is going to benefit from a new level of discussion."

Along with Besen's show, the stream offers "Harrison on the Edge," an entertainment news show hosted by Cary Harrison. "The Michaelangelo Signorile" show, hosted by the noted gay author and commentator, is also on tap.

Also on the menu is "The John McMullen Show," hosted by McMullen and Corey Johnson, who became well known as the first openly gay high school football captain, and "Derek and Romaine," a gay dating and sex advice show hosted by online columnist Derek Hartley and Romaine Patterson.

Tim Curran, who headed GAYBC's Washington news bureau, does top-of-the-hour gay news during every show. He delivers both gay-specific news stories and world news from a gay perspective.

OUTQ ACTIVITIES AREN'T CURRENTLY reaching a wide audience. Sirius currently has only 30,000 subscribers. The service needs 2 million subscribers for the company to break even, and it projects reaching that number sometime in 2005, Rebich says.

Until then, investors are paying the salaries at Sirius.

Sirius-ready radios are available as a dealer add-on in many car models and come as standard equipment in some new cars — including the new, trendy Mini-Cooper from BMW. But the network can be an expensive proposition to install it in existing vehicles.

To receive the signal, cars must have satellite-ready radio units that run anywhere from $170 to $600, as well as a tuner at $150 and an antenna for $50 to $100.

Instead of buying a Sirius radio, a regular radio already installed in a car can be modified to receive Sirius for between $180 and $250.

The service then costs $12.95 a month.

SATELLITE RADIO IS STILL A NEW, unproven technology. In five years, it could be as passe as laserdisks, or it could become a must-have like CD and DVD players.

The market is big enough to hold two major satellite radio companies, Rebitch says.

"We're not concerned at all about XM," he says. "We have some very savvy investors who have guessed that there is room for about 40 million of these radios out there. As you can see, there's room enough for both of us to succeed in this market.

"What we do know is that people will want this, because there's programming on it they can't get anywhere else," he asserts. "And the programming strategy is what's going to work."

Former Human Rights Campaign spokesperson **Wayne Besen** moved to New York City to host his own morning talk show on political issues as part of Sirius' OutQ gay channel programming. (Photo by Clint Steib)

MORE INFO

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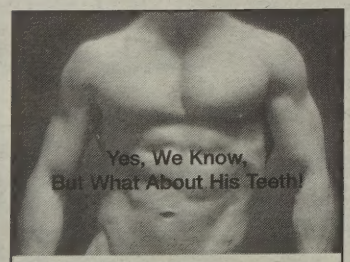

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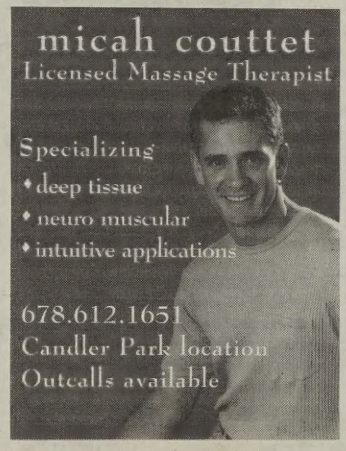
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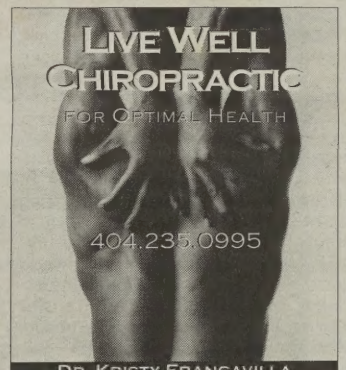
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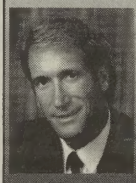
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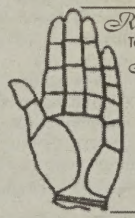
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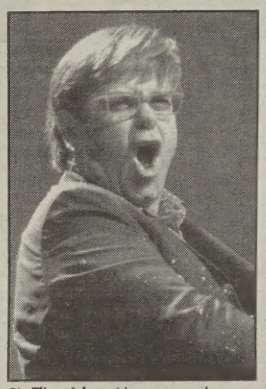
Elton John urges Britons to practice safe sex

LONDON (AP) — Sir Elton John warned young people on Wednesday that they would be "throwing their lives away" if they ignored new government figures showing a sharp increase in sexually transmitted diseases in Britain. The rock star, whose own AIDS charity has raised millions of dollars, urged people to practice safe sex, warning that Britain's struggling public health service would be unable to cope with an epidemic. John spoke as he opened a memorial garden for two former patients at a hospital clinic for people with AIDS and HIV in London. Last year, the number of people with AIDS doubled compared to the previous year in Britain. The number of cases of gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia also increased sharply, the government figures said. "We are seeing a terrible increase," John said. The memorial garden, aimed at helping to relax AIDS and HIV patients who visit Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, northwest London, was paid for by a special screening of hit movie "The English Patient," directed by Anthony Minghella, a friend of the two AIDS patients the garden honors.



Sir **Elton John** said young people are 'throwing their lives away' by having unprotected sex. (Photo by Chris Cook/AP)

Drinking may speed up progression of HIV

BOSTON — New research indicates people who drink moderate-to-high amounts of alcohol while taking antiretroviral medications risk faster progression of HIV infection, the Health Behavior News Service reported. Patients who drank alcohol while taking the drugs had lower levels of the immune cells that rally the body's defenses against the virus and higher levels of the virus. But the report, by Jeffrey H. Samet of Boston Medical Center and his colleagues, did not find a connection between alcohol consumption and the HIV progression in people who were not taking antiretroviral medications. Samet and colleagues are uncertain why the combination seems to speed up HIV's advance, "but a leading potential explanation for our findings is that alcohol use decreases adherence to HIV medications," the study says. Also, the report says alcohol and the antiretrovirals may combine to have harmful effects on the liver or immune system. The study examined 349 Boston-area patients who had a history of alcohol problems.

Clinton foundation targets AIDS in Africa, Caribbean

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton said he hopes to use his foundation to treat at least 700,000 AIDS patients in Africa and the Caribbean during the next five years. "Nothing would please me more than if instead of 700,000 or 800,000 we have eight million within a couple of years," Clinton said. "But in order to do it we not only have to have the money and the availability of the medicine, we have to have the infrastructure." The William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation is working with the governments of Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania and several Caribbean nations to fund AIDS prevention and treatment. As an example of their work, Clinton said foundation officials were able to cut the cost of the antiretroviral drugs from $3,500 a year to $500 a year in the Bahamas by negotiating directly with drug suppliers.

Researchers trace ancestry of HIV

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ancestry of the virus that caused the AIDS epidemic has been traced to two strains of virus found in monkeys in Africa, according to a study published in the journal Science. The viruses probably passed into chimpanzees when the apes ate infected monkey meat, researchers say. Earlier studies have shown that HIV1, the virus that causes the most common form of human AIDS, originated from a simian immunodeficiency virus, found in chimpanzees. But how chimps came to have SIV has been a mystery. American and English researchers analyzed the genetic pattern of a number of SIV strains in African monkeys. "The recombination of these monkey viruses happened in chimpanzees and the chimp transmitted it to humans on at least three occasions," said Frederic Bibollet-Ruche, co-author of the study. "The transfer between chimps and humans probably happened before 1930."

Staph scare among gay men subsides

SAN FRANCISCO — The outbreak of drug-resistant staph among gay men seems to be declining, according to a report by the Bay Area Reporter. Health officials sounded an alert four months ago that infections were on the rise. Since then, the numbers have returned to normal, said Dr. Mitch Katz, the city's health director. Still, Dr. Katz warned the danger is not over yet. Methicillin-resistant Straphylococcus aureus (MRSA) recently broke out at San Francisco General Hospital. "One thing that is concerning is it appears to be taking up resistance to more drugs," said Dr. Edwin Charlebois, an infectious disease epidemiologist. Reports of MRSA infections started spreading nationwide in late January. Katz recommended rigorous hand-washing as a possible way to prevent spreading staph infections.

From staff and wire reports

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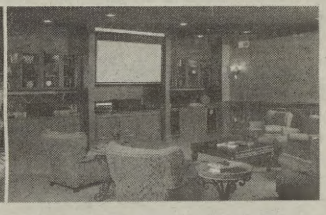

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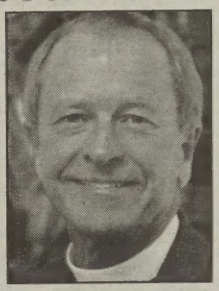
religion news

Episcopal leaders divided over first openly gay bishop

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's Episcopal bishops are taking sides over the proposed election of the Protestant denomination's first openly gay bishop. The issue is dividing the church, from the rank and file to the highest echelons of the clergy. In North Carolina, two bishops back Rev. Gene Robinson to become the next bishop of New Hampshire, while two Texas bishops and two bishops in South Carolina are opposed. Bishops Edward Salmon Jr. and William Skilton of South Carolina were scheduled to meet with about 20 other bishops in Atlanta to discuss the issue, while the Seattle Times reported that the conservative American Anglican Council plans to fight tooth and nail against Robinson's elevation. Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh, a leading conservative, called Robinson's election a "grievous wound" to the church and "a fundamental departure from the restraints of Holy Scripture." Robinson's election brings into sharp focus tensions that have been simmering over the issue of homosexuality in the worldwide Anglican Communion. Conservative Episcopalians argue that electing Robinson would strain ties with the church in other nations.



Episcopal bishops around the country are taking sides on the proposed election of Rev. **Gene Robinson**, who is gay, to become the next bishop of New Hampshire. (Photo by AP)

Pope devotes sermon to attack on same-sex unions

RIJEKA, Croatia — Pope John Paul II strongly condemned same-sex unions in an open-air mass on June 15 in this port city. The pope told Catholics that marriage consisted only of a man and a woman. He also told the faithful that they needed to fight to defend traditional family values against gay marriage and help fix what he called a "tragically fragmented" society. In a dramatic demonstration of the way the issue has gained momentum in Europe and North America, the entire sermon to the audience of 100,000 focused on gay relationships, according to 365gay.com. Calling "the stable and faithful union of a man and a woman" part of "God's authentic plan," the Pope said such a traditional family needs "special consideration and concrete policies aimed at promoting and protecting its essential nature, its development and stability."

Gay protestors target Southern Baptist Convention

PHOENIX — Members of Soulforce, the ecumenical group fighting for gay rights in various religious denominations, are trying to change minds at the annual convention of Southern Baptists here. "It's like that pebble you throw in the water," Laura Montgomery Rutt, Soulforce's national director of communications, told the Arizona Republic. "It ripples out and out. You never know what change may come." This is the fourth year that Soulforce members have attended the annual SBC convention. More than 7,000 Southern Baptists were expected earlier this week. Soulforce's banner expressed the group's views on the Baptists' stance: "Jesus comforted the oppressed, Southern Baptists create them." William Merrell, a Baptist spokesperson, said the Southern Baptists would not waver on their interpretation of scripture that "homosexuality is not only sinful, it's also destructive behavior." A handful of churches across the country who hired gay ministers found their ties with the national organization severed.

Outed U.K. gay bishop wants to work with critics

LONDON — A newly appointed bishop in the Church of England, which has close ties to the American Episcopal Church, was outed by a British newspaper. Jeffrey John, the new bishop of Reading, has reportedly been living with his partner for 20 years. John's appointment has caused outrage among the evangelical wing of the church, the Reading Chronicle reports. Over 100 clergy and local lay church members signed a petition asking the Bishop of Oxford to rescind the appointment. John hasn't spoke publicly about the controversy, but a spokesperson for the diocese said he "feels quite confident that he can work with his critics." Since the Queen has ratified his appointment, John is due to be consecrated in October during a ceremony conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who has himself come under criticism for ordaining an openly gay priest when Williams was a diocesan bishop. "We knew that it would be a slightly contentious appointment," said Rev. Richard Thomas, a spokesperson for the Oxford bishop. "But it has become more than that — it has gone ballistic."

Archbishop of Canterbury withdraws from gay meeting

LONDON — Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, won't participate in a conference called to discuss the issues surrounding homosexuality in the Church of England, the London Daily Telegraph reported. Same-sex unions and gay clergy are among the questions that the church has been furiously debating recently. The bishop of Vancouver added to the debate when he allowed several parishes to bless same-sex unions, leading the Nigerian church to sever ties with the Canadian diocese. Williams had earlier said he would attend the "Halfway to Lambeth" conference, a major international event organized by the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement. Williams later said he would not participate, but issued a statement saying he hoped the conference would spark a healthy debate on the highly controversial issues.

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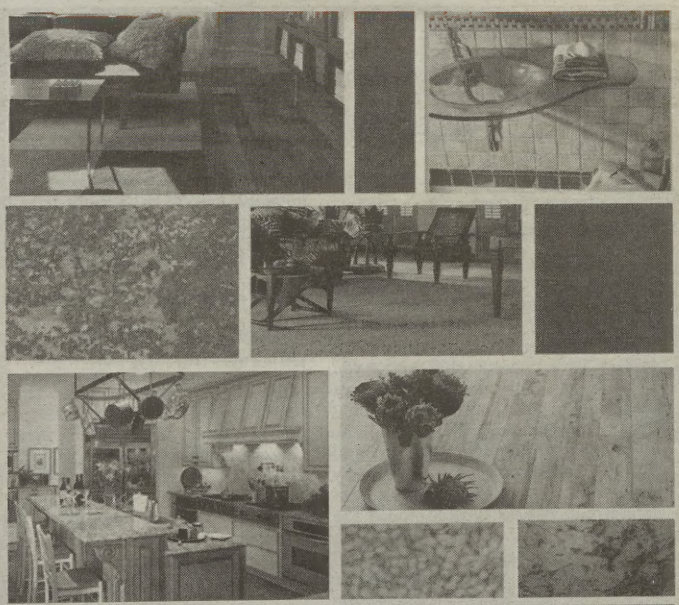

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Cooking for a crowd doesn't have to **bore their tastebuds** to death, just ask smalltown Southern ladies.

Achieving consistent perfection

Chicken and rice doesn't have to be the tasteless variety served by many restaurants. A good cook with a great recipe can have diners singing the praises of that old standby.

ONE THING ABOUT MODERN LIFE that I will never understand is the paradox in the way we view eating at home vs. the way we eat when we're out of town or out on the town. If average conversations and letters to food editors are to be believed, Americans are easily bored by cooking "the same old things" at home.

And yet, a multi-billion dollar food industry thrives on the fact that we migrate to the bland sameness of chain restaurants where we "at least know what we're getting."

I don't know where you were last Thursday, but I hope it wasn't at the Hartsfield Bistro in the Atlanta airport, where I was enduring what was supposed to be chicken and rice.

It was the only place that did not appear to offer pre-molded, deep-fried cookie-cutter fast food, but appearances can be deceiving. The chicken tasted vaguely oriental, and only vaguely like chicken.

Mostly, it tasted of onion and garlic powder, with an undertone of soy sauce — in short, like most so-called Asian fast food. That it was not supposed to be Asian was given away only by the fact that the gravy was not gluey with cornstarch.

The rice — if it's possible — was worse: that completely flavorless processed stuff restaurants often serve because it's consistent. Well, it was at least that.

Each grain was exactly like the next one, a plateful of perfect-rice-shaped clones. But perfection stopped at appearances. The texture was both dry and gummy, and the taste, before it was saturated in onion and garlic powder gravy, was nonexistent.

OKAY, IT WAS AIRPORT FOOD, PROcessed to feed a million travelers a day. I know that isn't an easy thing to do. But as the old saying goes, if you can't stand the heat, what are you doing in the kitchen?

In vivid contrast was the wonderful food at my final destination — the elegant Mitford-style Southern town of Wilson, N.C. The reason for the visit was a food and wine festival. Good as that was, the most memorable food of the weekend was not served at festival events.

The first evening, my awful airport lunch was canceled out by a fabulous dinner with Betty Lou Walston, reputed to be the best cook in town.

She certainly lived up to it. Everything she served had been perfected over time. And trust me, nobody was bored.

The next day's lunch was knock-you-dead fried chicken and fresh turnip greens at the Whole Truth Lunchroom, an extension of the Whole Truth Church of the Lord Jesus Christ next door.

They cooked the stuff by the vat, and yet the crackling crisp chicken and delicately seasoned greens were consistent perfection.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MY reward after three cooking demonstrations was some of the lightest, fluffiest, most perfect biscuits I've ever eaten, courtesy of Nora Williford, who makes them without measuring in her grandmother's old wooden bread bowl. She whips them up so quickly that we were eating them, hot and slathered with real butter, a mere fifteen minutes after she poured flour and buttermilk into the bowl.

There's no telling how many pounds of golden-perfect chicken and savory greens Whole Truth cooks every day, and Betty Lou's reputation rests on the generous openness of her table.

They all prove that good food in large quantities is possible, but the real point is, perfection like that is born not of the novelty we prize at home, nor of slavish devotion to consistency that we prize away from it, but of refined technique honed by careful repetition.

Go ye and do likewise.

Chicken Breasts sauteed with Sage and Madeira

This is my idea of chicken and rice. I've made it hundreds of times, and no one ever seems to get bored.

Serves 4

2 whole, boneless chicken breasts, skinned and split into halves

Salt and whole black pepper in a peppermill

2 tablespoons bacon drippings or unsalted butter

1/4 cup flour, spread on a plate

1 tablespoon thinly sliced sage leaves or 1 rounded teaspoon crumbled dried sage

1/2 cup Madeira

3 cups hot cooked rice

Put chicken between wax paper or plastic wrap and lightly pound to uniform 1/4-inch thickness with a mallet or scaloppine pounder. Season lightly with salt and pepper.

Put butter in a large saute pan and turn on heat to medium high. When hot but not browning, lightly roll chicken in flour, shake off excess, and add to pan. Saute until bottom is lightly browned, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle sage over chicken, turn, and saute until just cooked through, three to four minutes more.

Add Madeira, stirring and scraping to loosen cooking residue. Bring to boil and, reduce heat to medium. Simmer, turning chicken once or twice, until sauce is lightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Serve hot with rice.

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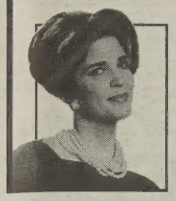


Plan to secure one-man men after second date could work, but it's the **couple-year itch** that could kill you.

Seeking instant monogamy

Dear Ms. Behavior:

When I hook up with a man I like, I hate the thought of him having sex with other people. I usually tell him that I like him, and I ask him to have a period of "trial monogamy" with me.

During this time, I don't want him to sleep with anyone else without letting me know. Of course, he's free to do anything he wants as long as he tells me about it, so that I can move on and date someone else instead. This helps me to eliminate the sex addicts from the start.

Most of my friends act like I'm crazy and think my needs are totally unreasonable. I think it's a good way to weed out men who won't be able to make a commitment. What do you think?

—Paul

Dear Paul:

Your plan certainly weeds out the restless men for whom monogamy is an absolute "no." But your strict requirements may also eliminate some delightful prospects who might be willing to commit after a few months of dating, even if they're not ready to don a chastity belt with others after a second date with you.

Still, if you're willing to sacrifice a few good men for your goal, go for it. Anyone who absolutely hates the idea of sex with one person for the short term will have a lot of trouble keeping it in his pants once your laundry commingles.

On the other hand, lots of people can commit for a year or two, but get itchy after say 600 or 700 nights in the same bed. You may have to come up with a new way to anticipate this in a boyfriend, or at least to accept the fact that you can't control it.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I'm responding to your letter about "ugly babies." I am a retired pediatrician. One observation I made in my practice was that only beautiful babies developed leukemia, at least that was my impression.

When I would see a new baby that was ugly, I would tell the parents that they won't have to worry about their child developing leukemia. They were so happy to hear that message, that no one in 25 years ever asked me the basis for my judgment.

—John P., MD, FAAP

Dear John P, MD:

Ms. Behavior looks forward to the day that you publish your findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association or even in the National Enquirer. Titles might include: "Six Servings of Vegetables a Day and a Swat with the Ugly Stick: How to Prevent Leukemia in Your Offspring," or "How Your Baby's Funny Face Protects Against Cancer."

'...you may be plain or unattractive or whatever, but you can only be ugly if you act that way.'

Dear Ms. Behavior:

For the past two weeks, your "Ugly babies need adoptive parents, too" question has been troubling me. I have to get this out of my system and off my desk.

Simply stated, there is no such thing as an ugly baby. There couldn't be. A person cannot 'be ugly," he can only "act ugly." Or, put another way, you may be plain or unattractive or whatever, but you can only be ugly if you act that way.

So no person is intrinsically ugly and certainly not a baby. A baby's face may not at first sight radiate happiness and beauty — as so many babies do — but that doesn't mean there isn't happiness and beauty inside.

Need proof? Tickle that baby's tummy, or hold it up in the air, or perhaps just hug or smile at him or her. See what happens. When that baby smiles, you will sense the true meaning of beauty.

If potential adoptive parents aren't ready to bring out the happiness and inner beauty of a baby, perhaps they should rethink their readiness for such an important undertaking.

And, by the way, shame on you for writing "Ugly babies..." in the first place.

—Jerome Witt

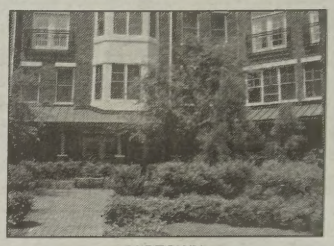
Dear Jerome:

When you were an infant waiting in line for God's gifts to be bestowed on you, clearly you took double helpings from the "earnestness" line and skipped over "sense of humor" portions.

But Ms. Behavior appreciates your generous life view and wishes that more people were as loving as you are.

Meryl Cohn is the author of 'Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay & Lesbian Etiquette.' She can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.

Expect More



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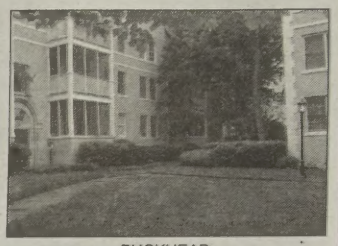

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John Barrett $174,000

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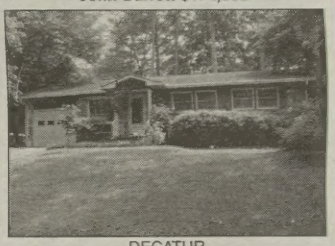
Wonderful 3BR/2BA brick ranch on full, partially finished bsmt, hdwds, sunroom
Sanders Colson $236,500



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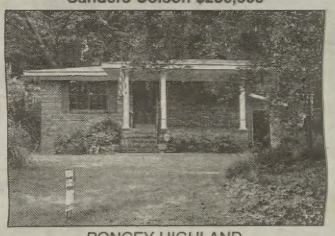
Adorable 4BR/2BA renovated & expanded home! Large great room, prvt fncd bkyd
Wilma Richardson $199,900



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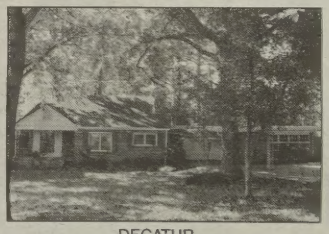

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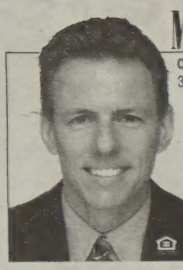

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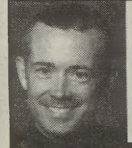
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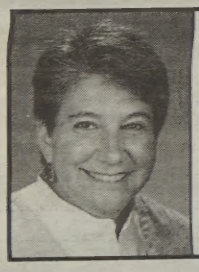
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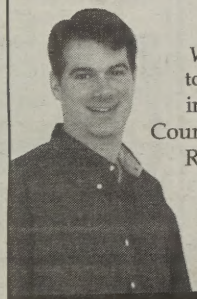
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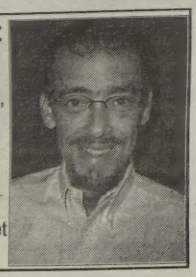
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local news

Attorneys paint different pictures in gay homicide

MURDER TRIAL, continued from Page 7

The two fled toward Alabama in Cook's car, according to testimony, and used credit cards found in his leather wallet to buy gas. Cook's Chrysler New Yorker broke down on April 10 and was later recovered by investigators from a towing company lot July 2.

A mental competency exam conducted Nov. 15 showed that Hall could have suffered from distress during the struggle in Cook's apartment, according to Dr. Darren Rothschild, an Emory psychiatrist who conducts the exams for Grady Health System.

"If someone had that happen to them, I think it would be common for them to have Post Traumatic Distress Disorder," Rothschild testified Wednesday.

Alicia Thomas, an attorney for Joseph Hall, said he acted in self-defense when he stabbed David Cook with a two-pronged cooking fork on April 8, 2002. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

'I'm sorry'

In her opening argument on Tuesday, Thomas set the stage for Hall's claims of self-defense. Hall, who stands 5 feet 7 inches tall, was intimated by the larger Cook, who was 6 feet 5 inches, she said.

"This case is not about sex, lies and videotape. This is about a college student coming to terms with his sexuality, a college student's right to say no," Thomas said.

Thomas said Cook tried to anally penetrate Hall.

"There is a difference between how homosexuals and heterosexuals have sex," Thomas said. "It sounds ugly, but Joseph is the male and that is how he has sex. He has anal sex. He penetrates the rectum and that is how he has sex."

Doering, McCloud's attorney, on Tuesday blamed Hall for Cook's death, adding that "the evidence will end up showing Mr. Hall was the one and only perpetrator."

During Doering's examination of Hall a day later, he again said McCloud played no part in Cook's death or the use of his credit cards.

Doering read from a note addressed to McCloud from Hall after his early May arrest in Montgomery, Ala.: "I'm sorry for killing that boy. I know you didn't have nothing to do with this because you weren't aware of my actions."

In a separate letter to McCloud's aunt, Hall wrote, "I regret getting him [McCloud] in this predicament. He had nothing to do with killing that guy. I did it."

Hall testified that he planned to accept full blame for Cook's murder, but changed his mind when, "I realized Jamar don't love me as much as I love him."

Doering did not call any witnesses before resting his case on Wednesday. McCloud did not testify.

12 plus two

Attorneys involved in the case spent Monday paring a pool of 52 potential jurors into a panel of 12 plus two alternates. The racial, gender and ethnic mix of Fulton County residents that started the day in Judge Jerry Baxter's courtroom resulted in a jury of 11 men and three women, with six African-American and eight white members.

Potential jurors faced extensive questioning about their views on gay men and lesbians during the selection process. After the jury pool completed a brief biographical questionnaire, Staten-Hayes asked five gay-specific questions, including if they had gay relatives or friends, worked with gay colleagues, or were offended by gay men and lesbians.

Five members of the jury pool said they have a gay relative, 15 worked with a gay man or lesbian, and 18 of the potential jurors said they know of a gay friend.

The jury was expected to begin its deliberations Thursday.

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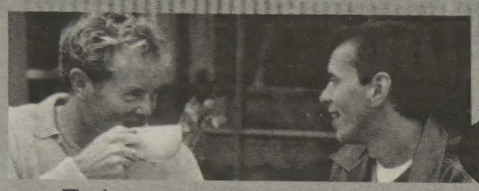

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LET'S MEET!
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GWM, 22, 6'4", 220lbs, brown/hazel, looking for a male, 21-28, for friendship first. If you're interested, leave me a message! East Cobb Station ☎482842

WHATEVER IT TAKES
SM, 22, looking for a male, 18-24, to go out, party, and have some fun with! Ridgeland ☎483112

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SM, 21, in search of a muscular male, 18-25, for whatever happens! Give me a call, take a chance! Atlanta ☎493019

CALL ME
SM, 18, 6'2", brown/blue, enjoys dancing, going out, and hanging out with friends. Looking for a new friend. Atlanta ☎477651

MAYBE IT'S YOU
SBM, 32, 5'11", 163lbs, medium build, hardworking laid-back, seeks down-to-earth, easygoing, intelligent, professional SBM, 30-45, HIV-, for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎451573

LET'S MAKE IT WORK!
SM, 34, 5'7", 165lbs, brown/brown, father of two, in search of a male who is ready to settle down. Atlanta ☎407465

EXTRA WEIGHT? GREAT!
SBM, 47, 6', 200lbs, shaved head, mustache, goatee, husky, Gemini, N/S, seeks stocky, beefy man, 30-75, hirsute a+, top or versatile, for monogamous LTR. ☎462517

LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH
SWM, 26, 6', 200lbs, Capricorn, smoker, seeks man, 21-38, for possible LTR. Big Cance ☎432407

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Tall, slender, shy SWM, 30, Sagittarius, smoker, enjoys the outdoors. seeks WM, 35-55, smoker, possible LTR. ☎365763

HELLO THERE
Employed, honest SM, 31, seeks outgoing, loving man, to share friendship and lots of fun, possible LTR. Wrens ☎360818

LET'S TALK
SM, 32, well-built, masculine, good-looking, outgoing, fun, seeks average, down-to-earth guy, to share sports, friendship and more. Decatur ☎350698

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GWM, bottom, 40, smoker, 5'8", 200lbs, brown/blue, into cars, racing, outdoors, music and dogs. Looking for a top with similar interests and varied. Hairy a plus, but not a requirement. smoke/drink ok. Serious replies only. Woodstock ☎275721

BE MY TEDDY BEAR
SBM, 32, 5'8", 240lbs, with a large build, is interested in meeting a WM, with a husky build, for friendship and more. Norcross ☎446778

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TRY ME
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GWM, 45, 5'8", 160lbs, brown/brown, moustache, HIV+, quite healthy, honest, sincere, enjoys camping, fishing, gardening, quiet times at home. ISO GWM, 40-50, with similar interests. South Metro area. Griffin ☎959082

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A GOOD LOVER
SWM, 38, 5'11", medium complexion, mustache, versatile, Cancer, smoker, seeks WM, 30-42, with a kind heart. Belvedere ☎465393

SHALL WE?
Bi-racial male, 18, long black/hazel, Aries, N/S, seeks man, 18-25, N/S, Atlanta area, for friendship, fun, and dating. ☎466935

SLIGHTLY ON THE EDGE
SWM, 41, 6'1", 190lbs, diverse, well-traveled, handsome, Gemini, smoker, teaches and trains horses. Seeking similar tall, masculine B/HM, 18-45. Atlanta ☎468020

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SBM, 23, 5'11", 170lbs, dark complexion, low hair cut, extremely hairy, loves the outdoors, horseback-riding, fishing, quiet times home, cuddling. Seeking SM, with good morals and a passion for life. Atlanta ☎451386

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Outgoing GBPM, 44, 5'7", 165lbs, honest, masculine, enjoys movies, sports, travel, cultural events, quiet evenings. Seeking mature GBPM, 32-50, for LTR. Austell ☎335776

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Loving, affectionate male, 45, 6'1", 270lbs, brown/blue, very tender and sentimental, loves hockey, romance, holding hands, hugging. Seeking a romantic, affectionate man, for dating, possible LTR. Powder Springs ☎359728

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959083

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎959072

LOOKING 4 HONEST...
sincere, SPM, HIV+, N/S, N/D, who enjoys having a good time. Life is too short not to have one, dining in/out, movies, beaches, bike-riding, walking in the park. Fairburn ☎417828

LOOK ME UP
SM, 22, 5'7", 142lbs, employed, active, seeks open-minded, honest SM, age/race open, to share good times, friendship, maybe more. ☎419631

MASCULINE, DOWN-TO-EARTH
WM, 40, 6', 190lbs, brown/brown, HIV+, healthy, likes the outdoors. Seeking someone similar for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎408321

SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT
SM, 53, 6'2", 230lbs, brown/blue, in search of GM, 30-40, with good looks, for good times together, possible relationship. Grovania ☎406406

GOOD COMPANY
SWM, 22, 6', with dark hair and good looks, seeks a man who is masculine, muscular, for fun times and more. Atlanta ☎370298

DON'T PASS ME BY
GWM, 40, 6', 200lbs, with blue eyes, HIV+, is in search of a special man, for dating, leading to more. Atlanta ☎372443

GOOD CATCH
WM, 50, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/brown, moustache, goatee, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, landscaping, gardening. Hoping to meet a man, 38-53, with similar interests and qualities. Meansville ☎374135

SIMPLE PLEASURES
SWM, 55, loves dining, walks in the park, Broadway shows, bowling, softball games, and travel. Seeking a man to share these pleasures with. Knoxville ☎375986

LET'S CONNECT
SWM, 18, 6'1", brown/blue, with good looks and a tan, seeks an outgoing guy for dining out and more. Marietta ☎378075

LET'S HAVE FUN
Male, 19, Cancer, 5'9", 145lbs, seeks SWM, 18-33, for casual fun times. ☎364790

LET'S MEET
Educated, artistic SBM, 48, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys painting. seeks man, 30-55, N/S, possible relationship. ☎366955

ARE YOU THE ONE
SM, 44, 5'4", 125lbs, brown complexion, enjoys basketball, football, swimming, gymnastics, track. Seeking very masculine fun-loving, active SM, to share scifi flicks, dining out, friendship and fun. discretion a must. Macon ☎349854

LET'S TALK
Fit, energetic SM, 40s, chef, enjoys reading, cycling, playing basketball and working out. Seeking outgoing, active guy, to share friendship and fun. Atlanta ☎351198

Been Glanced ?

GLANCED AT COWTIPPERS
Me: Red baseball cap, red sweatshirt. You: hooded gray sweatshirt, in the company of a lady. Wanted to approach you, didn't know how. Give me a call! Atlanta ☎251088

WHITE BUTTONFLY JEANS...
and red top-that you wore so well a the Ansley Kroger Sunday, Jan.15 at 1 p.m. Can't get you out of my mind!! Atlanta ☎117288

TARRAZU SUN. FEB 9TH
You: very hot, Asian-looking guy on first date. Me: with friends, sitting across from you. We made eye contact couple times. Wanted to give you my number, didn't have opportunity. ☎288931

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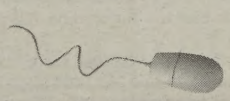


Give us your e-mail address and we'll do the rest.

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎959035

Women Seeking Women

OUTGOING WOMAN
GBF, 18, 5'4", 160lbs, brown/brown, enjoys movies, music, quiet times, outdoors, sports. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎503248

A LOT TO OFFER
GBF, 36, 5'5", 136lbs, brown/hazel, enjoys sports, travel, the arts, reading, movies, the beach. Seeking attractive, outgoing, feminine, down-to-earth GF, with similar interests, for friendship first. Covington ☎503266

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎959098

NO GAME PLAYERS
SBF, 30, 5'6", 165lbs, likes shopping, movies, walks in the park, reading books, romantic dinners. Seeking outgoing SF, 27-37, who knows what she wants. Jonesboro ☎478500

STAY SWEET!
Full-figured SWF, 29, new to Atlanta area, fun, outgoing, straight-forward, down-to-earth, independent, lives alone, seeks SW/BF, for companionship, good conversation, walks, exploring life together. D/D-free. ☎296039

ALL GOOD THINGS
SBF, 41, 5'1", with a full figure, is in search of a nice lady who is willing to try anything at least one. Fairfax ☎468601

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SF, 47, looking for a woman, 35-55, for swimming, working out, movies, concerts, and relaxation. Decatur ☎484587

GOOD COMPANY AWAITS YOU
Tall, slender, attractive GBF, with wholesome qualities, seeks the company of a like-minded spirit; somewhat conservative yet adventurous, romantic idealist, who appreciates intellectual stimulation tempered with good humor. Stone Mountain ☎488277

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Attractive, feminine, professional GBF, 39, enjoys concerts, plays, quiet dinners, cuddling, and occasional evenings out on the town. Seeking sincere, loving, butch GWPF with similar interests. Powder Springs ☎959135

SPORTY BUT FEMININE
SWPF, 47, teacher, likes hiking, working out, tennis, day trips, beaches, mountains, dining, movies. Looking for a similar woman, 38-60, for friendship, possible more. Mc Donough ☎400353

SPIRITUALLY CENTERED
Mature, straight-forward GPF, 42, enjoys simple life of quality vs. quantity, seeks same, enjoys good conversation, cultural events, reading, companionship. Friendship first and when it's meant to be, maybe more. ☎288400

MATURE SOPHISTICATE
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎959099

MAKE EACHOTHER LAUGH
SBF, 32, 5'2", 145lbs, Sagittarius, N/S, college student, seeks woman, 24-45, N/S, for friendship, casual dating. Let's seize the moment! East Cobb Station ☎393939

LOOK HERE
GWPF, 51, sane, solvent, spiritual, attractive, fun, athletic, vegetarian, bad violin player, but working on it, seeks friends first, wanna know more? Your turn. N/S, no drugs, no drama. Pine Lake ☎959132

SPARE TIME BUDDY
GBF, 34, enjoys movies, reading, dining out, travel, sports, biking. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for companionship and more. Atlanta ☎341420

DRAMA FREE
Hard-working, educated stud, 33, 5', 145lbs, black/brown, D/D-free, two beautiful daughters, dimples, not into games, seeks female to spend some quality time with! Duluth ☎403879

BE MINE
Attractive, feminine, hip GWF, 29, spiritual, adventurous, loves fashion, art. Looking for love outside the box. Memorial Square ☎262497

WANT THE REAL THING
This WF, 30, likes the outdoors, spending time with my dog, hanging out with friends, reading. Looking for a woman with similar interests. Must be mature and emotionally available. Decatur ☎274026

SHORT AND SEXY
GPF, 34, enjoys movies, music, travel, working out, outdoor activities. Seeking B/HF, 28-40, with similar interests, for friendship first. Stone Mountain ☎250845

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'6", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎959061

GREAT CATCH!
GBPF, 24, seeks SF for friendship, possibly more. I am attractive, feminine, active. Seeking stable, D/D-free lady to enjoy life with. Atlanta ☎959126

LET'S TALK
Sincere SPF, 44, tall, blonde, very attractive, H/W proportionate, magnetic smile, enjoys working out, the outdoors, kayaking, beaches, fly fishing, reading, the arts. Seeking open-minded SF,with eclectic interests, for friendship/fun. Winder ☎422660

A LOT OF QUIET TIME
Soft butch, 42, athletic, seeks feminine, mature, sophisticated, professional woman, 35-55, who's lonely and desires good conversation, dates to the movies, jazz clubs, plays. Athens ☎304005

SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES
Serious GBF, 20, Cancer, N/S, seeks older GBF, 21-33, to fulfill all of my dreams. Atlanta ☎432222

MY QUEST
GWF seeks same. Please be 36-44, fit, attractive, intelligent, spiritual, emotionally available. Let's meet, talk and see where it goes. Tucker ☎424315

WAITING FOR YOU
GHF, 39, Leo, N/S, enjoys movies, seeks honest, faithful, affectionate GWF, 30-48, who likes dogs, and not into drugs, for possible LTR. Moncks Corner ☎393286

SEEKS FRIENDS
SF, 44, seeks laid-back SF, who enjoys movies, dining, picnics, travel, or quiet times at home. Sound like you? ☎333712

SAVE THE DRAMA!
Brown-skinned woman, 45, 5'7", 186lbs, smoker, looking for a special lady, 34-41, race open, to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! ☎317653

READY TO SETTLE DOWN
SWPF, 42, looking for intelligent, articulate professional, 30-45, for good friendship first, maybe leading to a committed relationship. I like the outdoors, sports, music, shopping, more. Douglasville ☎278957

SLOW DANCE WITH ME
Feminine GBF, 49, seeks endless romance with aggressive woman, 30+, Let's explore the possibility for LTR and the good life. Are you willing? No fems or bi/curious. Smyrna ☎255276

OLDER WISER LESBIANS
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎959093

FUNNY, SEXY, SMART
GWF, 29, 5'6", 140lbs, short brown hair, soft butch, professional, loves outdoors, movies, concerts, traveling, dogs. Interested in LTR. Seeking professional, responsible female, 25-35, who sees babies in her future. Atlanta ☎111451

SEEKING CAMARADERIE
Feminine GWPF, 32, attractive, fit, enjoys Latin culture, working out, hiking, travel, beaches, shopping, arts, adventure, thought-provoking television/conversation, spending time with my dog. Seeking new friendship with happy individual. Atlanta ☎116721

Just Friends

MY PARTNER AND I...
recently relocated to Atlanta, and are seeking other females with whom to form a friendship, network, social group. Arlington ☎461866

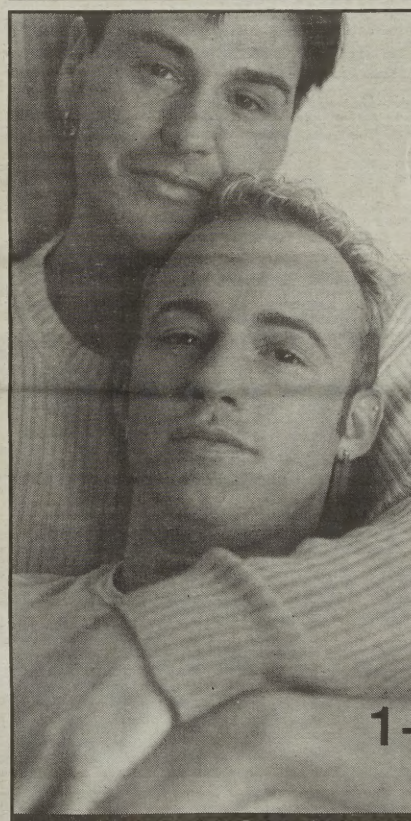
WHITE BOTTOM BOY
WM, 20, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/green, bottom, very smooth, fit, athletic, seeks adventurous top, 18-28, who can take charge in the bedroom. Athens ☎408244

SEEKS FRIENDS
GBF, 42, seeks GF, 35-45, who's professional, spiritual, and feminine, for friendship. No smokers, Bi's, drugs or alcoholics. Stone Mountain ☎422721

WANTED FRIENDS
GWPF, mid-30s, seeks similar, 25-40, for friends. Enjoys arts, travel, outdoors, sports, music of all types. I enjoy watching movies at home and out, good conversations, sincerity. No drugs. ☎259934

TV/TS

SPECIAL FRIEND
Bi-curious SBF, 29, Capricorn, N/S, loves basketball, football, and picnics. Seeking Bi-curious or BiF, 29-35, N/S, stable. Claremont ☎462011



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CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline to place a classified ad for Friday's publication is Monday at 5:30 p.m.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL Come buy in the "Land of Sunshine". From the top producer, #1 gay realtor in the area. Let my 15yrs of experience work for you. #8 agent in state of FL in 2002. Dan O'Flaherty (954) 396-5965.

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*Monthly payment is principal & interest only.
*Taxes & insurance extra & vary in different areas.
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SALE / COBB

SMYRNA / VININGS (1453 Springleaf Circle) TH. Totally renov. 2 BR, 2.5 BA, fpl, CAC/heat. New appliances, carpet, tile, hdwds & paint. Belonged to Jeff Foxworthy. $104,900. (404) 237-1031.

SMYRNA / VININGS (2339 Barbara Ln) 4 BR, 3 BA, CAC/heat, corner lot, new kit, "mother-in-law" suite, recent renov, 2 back decks, fenced-in yard. $174,900. (404) 237-1031.

SALE / GWINNETT

DULUTH (4116 Stillwater Plantation) Perfect roommate plan (condo). 2 master BRs, fpl, screened porch, swim/tennis, make an offer! Call Felicia, (770) 472-6627.

SALE / FULTON

Mind, Body & Spirit
continued from pages 68 & 69

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CLAIRMONT TERRACE (2805 NE Expressway, Unit B8, Atl, GA 30345) 1 BR, 1 BA condo in French Provencal brick bldg. Conveniently located inside I-285. Home warranty incl w/ purchase of this condo. $79,900! Virtual tour @ www.opendoorhomes.com. Owner/agent William Flanagan CENTURY 21 GOLD MEDAL REALTY (770) 621-9009 x317 or (404) 223-6747. MLS#: 01310164/771227.

COOL MIDTOWN CONDO! Studio condo less than 1 blk from Piedmont Park. Hdwds, tile counters, shared deck. $105,000! Mindy Winn, **REMAX Greater Atlanta** (404) 234-2253.

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MIDTOWN Midtown awesome condo. Park Central (1101 Juniper St, #51) 1 or 2 BR, sep LR, 24hr concierge, mins to Piedmont, CNN Center, Techwood. Call Felicia Norman, (770) 472-6627.

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BUCKHEAD TERRACES AT PEACHTREE; 1 Biscayne Dr, 30309.
✔1 BR / 1.5 BA Buckhead condo. Many upgrades. $139,900.
✔McGILL PARK (Mcgill Prk Ave 30312) Huge 1 BR loft. $139,900.
PRIDE REALTY (404) 352-5570 / (800) 597-7356.
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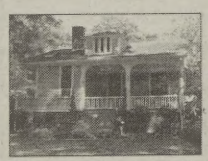

458 Park Avenue, Atlanta 30312 --- $349,900

VINTAGE BEAUTY (458 Park Avenue, Atlanta 30312) Half blk from Grant Park. 3/2 w/ huge rooms. Renovated kit w/ stainless & eat-in area. Priv backyard w/ lrg deck. Wall of closets in MBA. Expandable attic, carport, workshop/shed. See virtual tour @ www.McKayTeam.com. (404) 314-7568.

SALE / DEKALB

BROWNWOOD PARK ATLANTA Great 1930s bungalow w/ modern updates. 2 BRs, 2 BAs, formal living, sep dining, family rm*w/ fpl, screened porch & deck in back. 1 car garage & storage bldg. Property backs up to the park. $282,000. Call Ken Carroll, C-21 Gold Medal Realty; (404) 246-2922 / (404) 377-0116 ext 2327.

CLARKSTON Affordable charm, great house, 2/1 w/ bonus room. Acre lot, priv fence, lrg deck, hdwds, complete renovation. $158,000. By owner (404) 299-2396.

COME FALL IN LOVE W/ CLARKSTON! (930 Milam Cir) Gardener's delight, .66 acres, slate patio, 3 BR, 2 BA renovated ranch. Hdwd flrs, garage, basement, fpl, den or sunroom. $219,900. Dede Karafotias (404) 617-6381.

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✔River rapids log cabin, 3/2 + loft. Jacuzzi tub, stacked stone fpl, 1.3 acres, 130 ft on river. $229,000.
✔3 new cabins, priv are on the Ellijay river. Log sided, all wood interiors, fpl, beautiful pastoral views. $179,000.
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✔EAST ATLANTA HOME (1549 Newton Ave, 30316) 3 BR, 1 BA, hdwds, porch, WD, unfinished bsmt, many upgrades. $1,095/mo.
✔GRANT PARK HOME (1024 Portland Ave, SE) Renovated 2 BR, 1 BA. Hdwds, EIK, fpl, porch. Lrg yard. $1,095/mo.
✔McGILL PARK (McGill Prk Ave, 30312)
1 BR w/loft $1,095/mo / 2 BR, 1 BA garden, fpl, balc. $1,195/mo.
✔SIENA (220 Renaissance Pkwy) 2 BR, 2.5 BA duplex. Hdwds, 2 fpls, WD, covered prkg, many upgrades. $1,295/mo.
✔13TH ST Highrise 1 BR, balc, garage, WD. $915/mo.
✔TERRACES AT PEACHTREE (1 Biscayne Dr 30309) 1 BR, 1.5 BA, many upgrades. $995/mo.
✔DECATUR HOME (3330 Flat Shoals Rd, 30034) 3 BR, 2 BA, priv, WD, car-port. $1,150/mo.
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✔Ansley Park - Spacious 2 BR (Lrg MBA w/ fpl), 2 BA (jacuzzi), den, DR, well landscaped, priv setting, garage, $2,100/mo
✔Emory/Druid Hills - Charming cottage, 3 BR, 2 BA, renovated kit open to family room, deck, quiet setting, $1,800/mo
✔Midtown - Renovated bungalow, 2 BR, 2 BA, music room, DR, fpl, garage, $1,600/mo
✔Morningside - Small 2 BR, 1 BA, LR, lrg screen porch, quiet street, $1,100/mo
✔Morningside - Cottage, 3 BR, 2 BA, DR, sunroom/office, deck, 2 car open garage, $1,600/mo
✔Pine Hills - Cottage, 2 BR, 1 BA, separate dining, den, lrg fenced backyard, quiet street, $1,250/mo
✔Toco Hills - Split level, 4 BR, 2 BA, separate dining, sunroom w/french doors to deck, $1,400/mo
✔Toco Hills - Brick ranch, 2 BR, 1.5 BA, den/office, lower level, drive-in garage, $1,000/mo

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✔Inman Park - FREE MONTHS RENT !!!, 2 BR, 1 BA, hdwd flrs, 1st flr unit, walk to Inman Marta Station, $775/mo
✔Inman Park - Historic building, spacious 3 BR,2 BA, high ceilings, hdwd flrs, all big rooms, swimming pool, $1,500/mo
✔Inman Park - FREE MONTHS RENT !!!, 1 BR, 1 BA, hdwd flrs, 2nd flr unit, walk to Inman Marta Station, $600/mo
✔Midtown - FREE MONTHS RENT !!!, 1 BR, 1 BA, 2nd flr unit in 4 unit bldg, hdwd flrs, plenty of closet space, eat-in kit, $625/mo
✔Midtown - FREE MONTHS RENT !!!, Lrg 1 BR,1 BA, 4 unit bldg, hdwd flrs, plenty of closet space, eat-in kit, $700/mo
✔Poncey/Highlands - Lrg studio apt over garage, storage available, $575/mo
✔Poncey/Highlands - Lrg attic apt, 1-2 BR,1 BA, lrg kit, distinct alcove spaces, $775/mo

Condos/Townhomes for Rent
✔Druid Hills - Spacious TH, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, entry foyer, sunken LR/DR, patio, white kit w/corian tops, 2 reserved spaces, $1,500/mo
✔Emory/Briarcliff - Renovated 2 BR, 1 BA, LR/DR, upscale kit, deck, hdwd flrs, $900/mo

RENT / COBB

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RENT / FULTON

1 BR APT New ground flr, gated community, priv patio & entrance. Above Red Chair w/ Midtown view. 1 yr lease. 1st, last, security. No pets/smoking. $975/mo incl utils. Avail 7/15. (404) 872-3555.

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT (1981 Martin Luther King Jr) Newly renovated 2 BR, 1 BA. $550/mo, $450 sec dep. (678) 873-1434(c) or (770) 549-0634(vcml).

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BUCKHEAD CHASTAIN RESERVE Condo for rent or lease to own 3 BR, 4 BA. 4 levels fpl om main level, hdwd flrs, 2 patios, glass walk-in shower. Very spacious. Mins from Chastain Park. Please call (404) 932-4279 for open house.

BUCKHEAD GM ISO GM roommate for very lrg (650 sqft) BR w/ priv BA for rent in 4 BR home. $600/mo incl utils /cable/garage prkg/maid. (404) 728-8707.

CABBAGETOWN Spectacularly renov historic 2/1, photographers home. 12' ceilings, hdwds, fpls, recessed lighting, CAC, WD, shed, OSP, great front porch overlooking 3 acre greenbelt. $1,150/mo. (404) 523-2538.

INMAN PARK Hose/TH. 2 BR + office, 2.5 BA, hdwds, fpl, WD, screened in porch, decks, 2-car garage. $1,300/mo + utils & dep. (678) 468-6704.

MIDTOWN / GATECH Renovated 3 BR, 1 BA. WD, DW, AC, grill, fenced yard. Pets OK. $1,050/mo. (404) 412-0212. www.tech-tutors.com/hampton.htm.

MIDTOWN 2 BR loft. Prime PT St loc, view! Hdwds/tile, glass, brick, pool, exercise room. 24hr security, covered prkg. Avail 8/3. $1,350/mo. (770) 416-9891.

MIDTOWN Metropolis Penthouse level. 1 BR for rent. SS appls, hdwd flrs, granite counter. Many amenities. WD incl. Avail 8/1. $1,500/mo. No dogs. (404) 431-2916.

MIDTOWN RENTALS AVAILABLE:
✔6/13: 894 Monroe Cir, 1,020 sqft, 2/2, $1,150/mo
✔7/15: 857 Monroe Cir, 1,700 sqft, 3/3, $1,800/mo
✔8/1: 557 Seal Pl, 2,000 sqft, 3/2, $2,000/mo
Call (404) 386-0089.

MIDTOWN WEST (1043 Hampton St) Home Park, near Atlantic Station. 3 BR, 2 BA, CAC/heat, hdwds, tile, 2 fpl, high ceils, lrg front porch. $1,195/mo. (404) 237-1031.

MIDTOWN WEST (1877 Sumter St) 4 BR, 2 BA, CAC/heat, hdwds, tile. Quiet St, convenient to everything. $895/mo. (404) 237-1031.

ORMEWOOD PARK (SHORT OR LONG TERM LEASE) 3 BR, 2 BA, MBA w/ walk-in closet, garden tub, big back yard, WD incl. Pets OK. Avail 7/6. Easy drive to Downtown/Emory. $1,250/mo. Contact Amy (404) 774-4320.

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TOCO HILLS AREA 5 BR, 2.5 BA, pool, hot tub, formal DR & LR, lrg den & game room + pool house. $2,400/mo. Call Kelly (404) 271-3155.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS 2 BR, 1 BA top flr unit in Colonnades. LR w/fpl, sunroom, DR, lrg courtyard balcony, hdwds, lrg closets, OSP, WD connection, AC. Pets OK. $1,300/mo. Avail 7/1. (404) 373-4250.

RENT / DEKALB

CLASSIFIEDS

DECATUR AREA / INSIDE 285 3 BR, 2 BA house, den, lrg deck, WD connection, DW + disposal. Near Farmer's Market. $1,000/mo + dep. (404) 377-5241.

HISTORIC OAKHURST DUPLEX 2/1, CHA, hdwd flrs, garage, laundry, lrg back yard. Next to McCoy Park. Walk to shops, restaurants, art gallery. $800/mo. (770) 380-8123.

HISTORIC STONE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE Brand new, lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Hdwds on main, WD, fpl, microwave, 1-car garage. Pets under 25lbs OK. On Marta. $1,350/mo + dep. (678) 778-9521.

LIVE IN HIP CANDLER PARK! Huge 1 BR, 1 BA, sun-filled, top flr condo. Across from park/golf course. Freedom path, walk to Marta & restaurants. Hdwds, WD, no common walls, very quiet. Only $900/mo. Call (404) 663-5661.

NORTHLAKE / BRIARCLIFF 3 BR, 2 BA duplex on 2 acres. 10 mins Midtown. Open family/kit. NS/pets. 1 yr. $975/mo. (404) 633-7850.

RENT / EVENT SPACE

FORUM AT DEFOOR CENTRE An intimate, artistic setting for events; 30' ceilings, large performance stage; accommodates 500 standing, 150 seated; 5 mins from Buckhead, Midtown, Downtown. Contact Shelly Crump, Event Sales Manager (404) 591-3903.

RENT / ELSEWHERE

DOUGLASVILLE 1 BR apt. 940 sq ft, overlooking priv lake. Utils incl, WD hook-up. $700/mo. (404) 538-7363.

FOR RENT Beautiful 1 BR apt in lesbian's home on water in Mexico Beach, FL. Call (850) 648-8764.

FOREST PARK 2 BR, 1 BA 1200 sqft brick w/ lots of extras. Beautiful wooded lot. $800/mo. $500 dep. Call (770) 388 2301.

SHARE / COBB

VINIGNS PGM, NS/drugs, ISO similar to shr 3/2 apt home. WD, amenities, overlooking lake, quiet, peaceful surroundings. $525/mo + utils. Call Michael (770) 434-1803.

SHARE / GWINNETT

ALPHARETTA / DULUTH *Bi F ISO roommate. 2 BR TH,* garage, fenced yard. Renting MBR w/ loft. Priv BA, huge closet, plenty of storage. $600/mo. (404) 983-2418.

SHARE / FULTON

COLLEGE PARK Historic District. Walk to MARTA Rail. Luxurious lrg BR w/ priv BA in beautiful restored Victorian home, prkg, cable & all utils incl. Avail furn/unfurn from $450/mo + dep. NS only. (404) 377-8668.

EPT GBM, 40s, smoker; seeks 2 mature/discreet boarders. 3 BR home, nice neighborhood. No party animals, no druggies. Deposit, shr utils expenses; live comfortably w/ 2 gentle boxers. $475/mo. (404) 376-7106.

MIDTOWN GM, 30, seeks roommate for 3-story, 2 BR, 2.5 BA TH. Great location! $625/mo incl all utils. Call Mike at (404) 840-8346.

PROF GM ISO NS, prof to shr 1,700 sqft 2 BR, 2.5 BA apt w/ CHA, WD, attic & several closets, OSP. 4 blks to Piedmont Park. $510/mo + half utils. Avail 8/1. (404) 992-0299.

SANDY SPRINGS CONDO PGM looking to shr my 2 BR, 2 BA condo. $500/mo + half utils. NS/pets. Call Mark (404) 943-0857.

SHARE / DEKALB

CANDLER PARK Housemate wanted. Shr 3 BR, 2 BA house w/ F & dog. Quiet street, Marta, fenced yard. $375/mo + utils. (404) 522-5623.

DECATUR / COVINGTON HWY 2 BR, priv entrance, kit, BA, WD. 1.3 miles from Kensington MARTA Station. ISO responsible, clean, respectful. $650/mo + utils. Call Marc (404) 288-8337.

GM TO SHARE 3 BR, 2 BA house. Sep BA, WD, pool, hottub. Convenient to I-85, Midtown, VA Highlands, Emory/CDC. Must like pets. $600/mo incl utils. Call (404) 748-4142.

NORTH DRUID HILLS GM to shr 2 BR, 2 BA apt. CATV, WD, steps to Marta. $525/mo utils incl except phone. Call Frankie (404) 633-9926.

SHALLOWFORD / 85 Roommate wanted to shr 2 BR, 2.5 BA TH. $500/mo + half utils. NS, no pets. (678) 530-9344.

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION Southern Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

ARTISTIC INVITES Unique & colorful wedding/commitment invitations for the couple seeking to express their individuality. Please visit my website
www.nicolerivera.com.

www.weddingbellz.com Beautiful Victorian chapel/retreat center, accepting reservations for commitment ceremonies, weddings, renew vows. Overnight accommodations w/ breakfast. Singles, couples, small groups. 30 mins North of Perimeter. Smoke-free adult environment. Call (678) 947-5002. E-mail: Meshad@aol.com

VIDEOGRAPHY For commitment ceremonies & weddings. Call (770) 636-2222 or e-mail videofreelancer@earthlink.net for more info.

LIFE PARTNER COMMITMENT CEREMONIES performed by like-minded minister. Call Reverend Angelia Hall (770) 942-9744. Ask about small ceremony packages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.weddingbellz.com Beautiful Victorian chapel/retreat center, accepting reservations for commitment ceremonies, weddings, renew vows. Overnight accommodations w/ breakfast. Singles, couples, small groups. 30 mins North of Perimeter. Smoke-free adult environment. Call (678) 947-5002. E-mail: Meshad@aol.com

OUR COMMON WELFARE will provide free HIV testing & counseling, testing using oral fluids & urine test; daily 9am-7pm & Sat 9am-1pm.. Located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H; Decatur (next to Dekalb Co jail). Call (404) 296-3090 for details.

EMPLOYMENT

CREATIVE SOUS CHEF Work w/ a Master Executive Chef in a new Catering Co/Bakery/Gourmet Shop in Alpharetta. Call (678) 455-5530. Ask for Chef Sandy.

FRONT DESK HELP For growing Chiropractic Wellness Center in East Point. No previous experience necessary. Must be personable, love helping people, able to handle many tasks, strong phone skills & minor computer skills. FT or PT. (404) 761-4441.

OFFICE / SALES MANAGER needed for growing Atlanta residential cleaning service. Must have extraordinary people & communications skills. Spanish speaking a +. (770) 234-0034 or send résumé to: owright@maidbrigade.com.

SERVICES REQUESTED Bi-weekly residential cleaning. Occasional dog sitting. Riverside/Sandy Springs area. (404) 497-0801.

PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE CHAUFFEUR Qualifications: Squeaky clean driving record - no DUI, points or criminal arrests, on-time, positive attitude, well groomed, honest & dependable, vehicle clean & stocked, accurate record-keeping/reports, flexible & avail on short notice 7 days. Send resume & letter of interest to: Chauffeur Ad 2003, PO Box 54473, Atlanta GA 30308.

THE GREATEST GENERATION If you've cared for a loved one, this job's for you. Join the #1 non-medical in-home service for the elderly. Flexible PT day, evening & wkend hrs avail. *Car Required* (770) 392-1070. **Home Instead Senior Care**

YOUTHPRIDE a grassroots organization, is seeking an **Executive Director**. YP strives to enhance the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & questioning (GLBTQ) youth through advocacy, education, outreach, support, services & youth activities.

Candidates will have a passion for youth empowerment & will need to have demonstrated the following critical competencies: ability to work w/ a diverse constituency of youth in age, race, gender, socioeconomic status & sexual orientation; ability to fundraise, organize special events while developing & managing multiple contracts & grants; experience as an administrative leader; demonstrated ability to motivate, increase visibility, plan imaginatively & build community collaborations; proven leadership in all aspects of an organization. Key areas of responsibility include youth safety & empowerment, budget and personnel, resource development & community relations.

This FT position will be avail immediately. Salary is competitive & based on qualifications & experience. To ensure full consideration, applications w/ a letter addressing the responsibilities & qualifications, detailed resume, salary requirements & names & addresses of three (3) references, should be submitted to:
YouthPride c/o E.D. Search Committee
302 East Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
or email to YPResumes@aol.com. Only qualified candidates will be contacted. www.youthpride.org

POSITIONS WANTED

THE WEDDING HOUZE Seeks professional sales/coordinators, ministers, photographers. Wkends & holidays reqd. Call (404) 362-2058.

VOLUNTEERS

ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER *is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!* Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahraatlanta@juno.com.

GROUPS

TWO MOMMIES PLAYGROUP START-UP: Lesbian mother looking for same in the Decatur area for daytime playgroup. Prefer children 0-5. Playgroups will meet at area playgrounds, outdoor venues & member homes. If you are interested in joining this group, please send name, address, telephone number to twomommies@hotmail.com. Prefer to schedule playgroups for Wednesday mornings. Weekend events may be added later to accommodate working moms. Respond before July 1, 2003.

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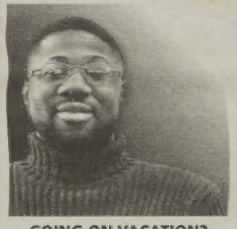
BOYS FROM BRAZIL/a Complete vacations to Rio & Brazil. Your gorgeous, personal host will welcome you at the airport. www.BoysFromBrazil.com or 1-800-2BRASIL.

TRAVEL / U.S.A.

BEAR HAVEN Hedonistic hideaway secluded on 30 luscious acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not a B&B, you have it all to yourselves! *Total privacy!* Charming cottage is perfect blend or art 7 rustic in nature's most serene setting. *With* in-ground pool and hot tub. Only 1+ hrs from Beltway. (202) 271-8282.



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel
pump it up
SYDNEY MADE IT THROUGH SURGERY. BUT WILL SHE SURVIVE HER MALIGNANT PARENTS AND THE MIASMAL FOG OF CABLE NEWS?
©2003 BY ALISON BECHDEL
"...AND I PROMISE YOU, WE WILL FIND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION." THIS HAS BEEN A FOX NEWS ALERT. WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED ON THIS BREAKING STORY. NEXT...
SO PAUL, HOW'S LOLITA? DID SHE EVER FINISH HER DISSERTATION?
JENNIFER IS FINE. SHE, AH...SHE JUST RECEIVED HER PILATES CERTIFICATION.
SNORT.
"THE VITALITY OF AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON THE FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY OF AMERICA'S ELECTIONS."
UH...DOING A LITTLE LIGHT READING, MO?
THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM
SO SAID PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AS HE SIGNED THE HELP AMERICA VOTE REPUBLICAN ACT INTO LAW LAST OCTOBER.
SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD DISTRACT HER TO FOCUS ON THE ONE THING THAT SCARES HER MORE THAN CANCER.
IS IT WORKING?
I'M TOO TERRIFIED TO TELL.
BUT SOME CITIZENS ARE QUESTIONING THAT FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES, WHICH THEY CLAIM COULD BE USED TO CONCEAL MASSIVE ELECTION FRAUD.
AH! NICE TO SEE YOU AWAKE.
HEY, DR. ROMMEL.
HERE WITH US TO DISPEL THIS HENNY PENNY CONSPIRACY THEORY IS THE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN OWNER OF ONE OF THE LARGEST VOTING MACHINE MANUFACTURERS.
WELL, I GOT GOOD, CLEAR MARGINS. BUT WE WON'T KNOW HOW MEAN THE CELLS ARE UNTIL WE SEE THE PATHOLOGY. I WANT YOU TO REST UP FOR THE FIGHT.
GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND AND SAINT GEORGE! TO THE BREACH!
UM...CHECK HER MORPHINE PUMP, NURSE.
SHE'S AS LUCID AS I AM. THAT'S "HENRY THE FIFTH."
THE PUMP'S FINE. GO AHEAD AND HIT IT AS SOON AS YOU FEEL ANY PAIN.
SO GINGER, YOU USED TO TEACH WITH SYDNEY AT THE UNIVERSITY?
YEAH. ENGLISH LIT. NOW I'M AT BUFFALO LAKE STATE.
THE STATE COLLEGES PRODUCE A FINE SCHOLAR NOW AND THEN. I DON'T KNOW IF SYD MENTIONED, I'M CHAIR OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT CHICAGO UNIVERSITY.
SHE TOLD ME YOU JUST RETIRED.
AND SHE TOLD ME YOU'VE GOT YOUR SHOPLIFTING UNDER CONTROL. I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
THIS THING IS GREAT. TOO BAD I DIDN'T HAVE ONE WHEN I WAS GROWING UP.
BEEP

CLASSIFIEDS

GARDEN SUITES BED & BREAKFAST In the center of Motnrose (Houston area). Call Dennis (713) 528-2302.

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Web page: www.guesthouseatlostriver.com

MOOSE MEADOW LODGE Vermont log home, Waterbury. Gay-owned, luxurious Adirondack-style B&B on 86 acres. Premier site for civil unions & romantic getaways. (802) 244-5378. www.moosemeadowlodge.com

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REHOBETH QUAINT SUMMER COTTAGE 4 BR, 2 BA, walk 2 blk to guarded beach. Huge screened porch. Outdoor shower. Sleeps up to 16. Plenty of prkg. ($750-1,400) weeks in June, July, August still avail. Email: kbutler@comsys.com. or (301) 775-4104.

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REHOBOTH THE MALLARD GUESTHOUSE. WE ARE STILL OPEN!! Spring fling...3 for 2 special. Rooms from $50. Voted "Best at the Beach." Just steps to the boardwalk, heart-of-town location. Fine furnishings & antiques. Priv BAs, jacuzzi tubs, outdoor spa, CATV. Open year-round. Call today! (888) 872-0644 or (302) 226-3448; www.themallard.com. Our e-mail address: guest@themallard.com

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DANCING BEAR CABINS Visit Dahlonega, Ga. North Georgia's gold mining town. Stay in a priv new cabin on the Chestatee River. Go fishing, canoeing, tubing or just relax on the deck & listen to the river. (706) 864-8228 or e-mail: twistedsisterscabins@alltel.net.

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FT LAUDERDALE BLUE DOLPHIN Mens Resort. Season specials now in effect. Save Now! Call (800) 893-2583 or visit our website at: www.bluedolphinhotel.com

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KEY WEST Call me for best deal on renting a luxury townhouse in gated community in old town. (202) 607-4178.

DC GuestHouse Elegant Victorian mansion built in 1867. Logan/Convention Center location. Blks away from world class dining & diverse entertainment. Gay owned & operated. (202) 332-2502 www.dcguesthouse.com.

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Chalet, 4 BR, 2 BA, fpl, WD, fully equipped kit, hot tub, jacuzzi, screened porch. $900-1,500/week. Contact Cathi, (718) 979-8448 bobcat1020@mail.com.

VACATION RENTAL Beautiful 2 BR apt, sleeps 4 comfortably, 1 BA, fully equipped kit w/ lrg deck & fpl. 2 blks from the beach & just 15 mins from historic Savannah. $600/week + taxes & cleaning. Contact Robert (856) 979-5830 or Todd (856) 979-5628.

BUY / SELL

GIANT YARD SALE! Medlock Place community yard sale. A cul-de-sac of 16 homes in fabulous Decatur. Sat 6/21, 9am-12pm. 2461 Vivian Circle, Decatur 30030.

AIRPLANE 1996 Wheeler Express N12EX. Powered by a Lycoming IO (225hp) w/ Hartzel Constant Speed Prop, 4 seater loaded!! Call (404) 918-9758.

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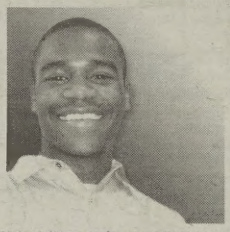

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GIANT PLANT SALE 6/21-22 & 6/28-29, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12-4pm. Perennials, annuals, tropicals. (1775 Crestline Dr, Atlanta 30345) Call (404) 636-2509 for details.

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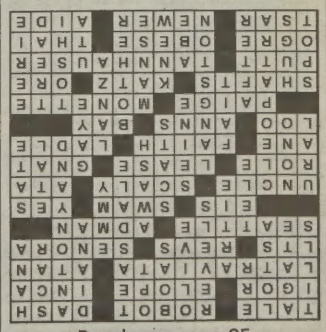
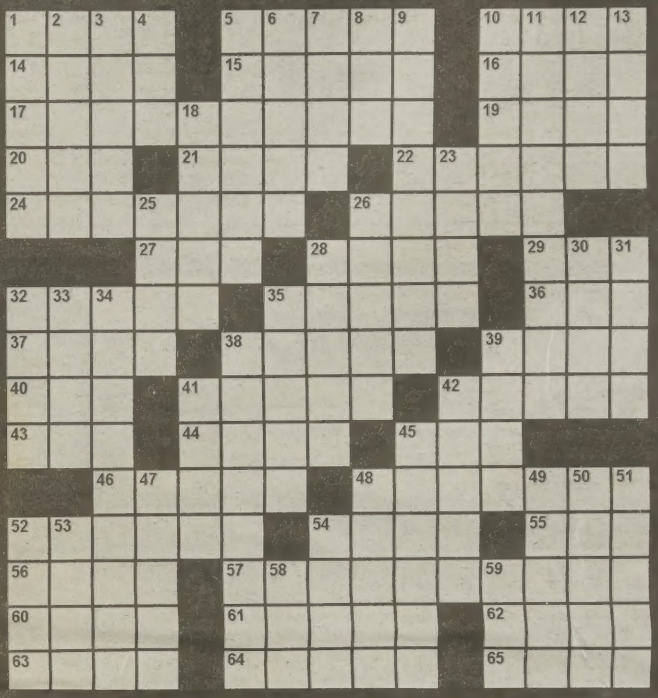


Puzzle on page 85

Q Puzzle



'A Night at the Opera'

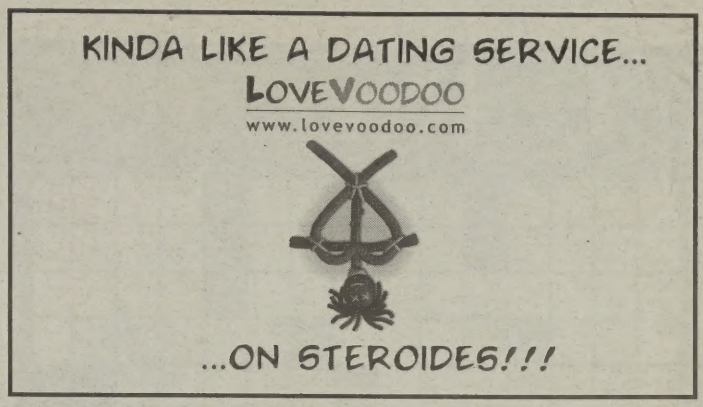
Across

1. Maupin story
5. Nonheterosexually conceived "man"
10. Sprint at the Gay Games
14. "Firebird" composer Stravinsky
15. Become wife and wife secretly
16. Peruvian friend of Maya Angelou?
17. Verdi's tragedy of a fallen woman
19. Get ___ (enjoy Laguna Beach)
20. Steve May and others
21. Jane Spahr and Mel White
22. Achy Obejas' woman
24. Home of Toys in Babeland
26. Guy who uses come-on lines
27. Rilke's ice
28. Emulated Diana Nyad
29. Start of an Etheridge album title
32. "___ Tom" (poem of 38-Down)
35. Like snakeskin
36. "Alone ___ Drive-in Movie" ("Grease")
37. Albert, to Nathan
38. Will and Grace shared one
39. Responder to "Bite me!"?
40. James M. Barrie's one?
41. Catholicism, to Mychal Judge
42. Utensil for giving Oliver "more"
43. Elton's john
44. Bannon and Northrop
45. Green ___ (one team of Kopay)
46. Actor Peter of "QAF"
48. "Becoming a Man" author
52. Members at a bathhouse?
54. "Gay American History" author Jonathan Ned ___
55. St. of Lon Mabon
56. Stroke from Spencer-Devlin
57. Wagner's knight's tale
60. Shrek, for one
61. Too big for your britches
62. Siamese, if you please
63. Peter the Great
64. More up-to-date
65. Bush staffer

Down

1. Cash drawers
2. A marble player may shoot it off
3. Loads of
4. Screw up
5. Wilde parties
6. Drab hanky color
7. Wraps around drag queens
8. Throw in the towel, with "out"
9. "Love Songs" poet Sara
10. Ross of "The Wiz"
11. With 34-Down, Barber's Shakespeare adaptation
12. Fey feline film felon
13. Mandlikova, who beat Navratilova at the 1985 U.S. Open
18. Clarinet-blower Shaw
23. Frequent nomination for Messing and Hyde Pierce
25. Prefix with tubbies
26. Up to one's ears
28. Sings like Ella
30. And others, for Caesar
31. Satisfy fully
32. Russian river
33. Homosex, to members of Exodus
34. See 11-Down
35. River of Gay Paree
38. "The Weary Blues" poet Hughes
39. Ironically straight singer Marvin
41. ___ accompli
42. "The Great Caruso" star Mario
45. Be a pain in the ass to
47. Last word of a fairy tale
48. Home for Troy Perry
49. Reagon of the Big Lovely band
50. E.M. Forster's "Where Angels Fear to ___"
51. Like Kevin Williamson's movies
52. "Hot ___" (Michael Craft mystery)
53. Bear embraces?
54. Had carnal relations with
58. "Guys and Dolls" co-creator Burrows
59. Hagen of "The Boys from Brazil"

Answers on Page 84



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___ Sports
___ Instruction
___ Local Accomodations
___ Travel International
___ Travel USA
___ Nearby Getaways
___ Travel Tickets
___ Travel Companions
___ Buy/Sell
___ Arts/Antiques
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Your guide to Pride

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Inside

Court strikes down sodomy laws

On eve of Pride celebration, decision affirms privacy rights

Full coverage, Pages 21-22, 93

'The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime,' U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote in the 6-3 decision about two gay men in Texas, **John Geddes Lawrence** (left) and **Tyron Garner**, who were charged with violating the state's 'homosexual conduct' law in 1998.

LESBIAN BARBIE: N.Y. student sues school over banned t-shirt calling doll gay. **Page 35**

'PIONEER' DIES: Former Mayor Maynard Jackson remembered as friend to gays. **Page 10**

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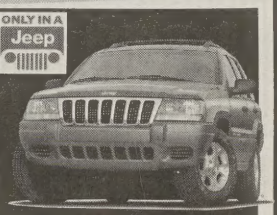

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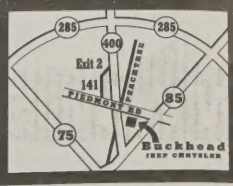

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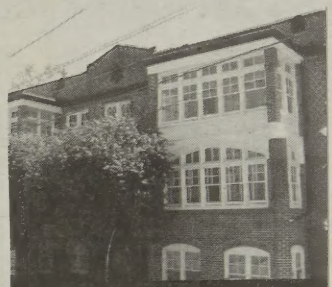

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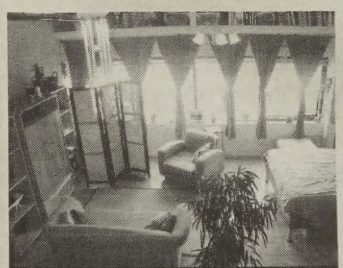

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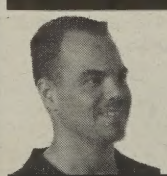

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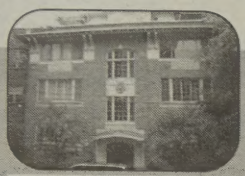

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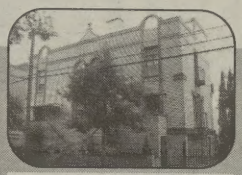

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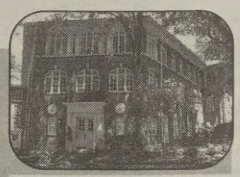

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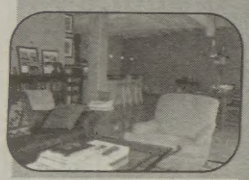

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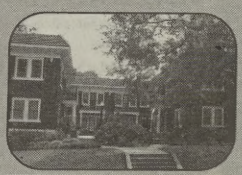

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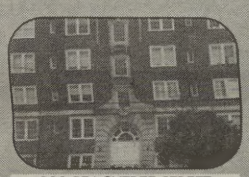

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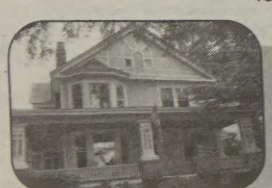

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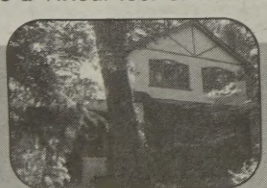

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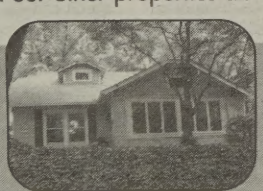

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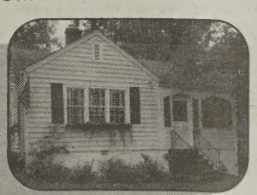

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local news

No appeal yet in bat attack conviction

Morehouse College cites list of steps to improve campus climate in wake of attack

By RYAN LEE

Lawyers for Aaron Price have yet to file an appeal in the former Morehouse student's conviction on aggravated assault and aggravated battery charges earlier this month.

Price's attorneys have until July 11 to file an appeal, according to Susan Goger, assistant to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Jerry Baxter.

On June 11, Baxter sentenced Price to two 10-year prison sentences, to be served concurrently, for beating fellow Morehouse student Gregory Love with a baseball bat in a November 2002 dormitory shower incident.

The case was Georgia's first court trial involving the state's hate crimes law since it was passed in 2000. Although convicted on the assault and battery charges, Price was acquitted of charges that his crime was motivated by anti-gay bias, which could have added up to five years to his prison sentence.

One of Price's attorneys told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution after the trial that the conviction would be appealed. But his attorneys have not responded to repeated interview requests from Southern Voice.

The attack rocked the Morehouse campus last fall, as the school and its administrators were accused of ignoring and encouraging an atmosphere of homophobia and intolerance.

Since then, the historically black all-male college has created a two-part task force "which seeks to approach the issues of tolerance and diversity from external and internal perspectives."

Still, critics wonder if Morehouse is genuinely committed to making its campus more inclusive and safe.

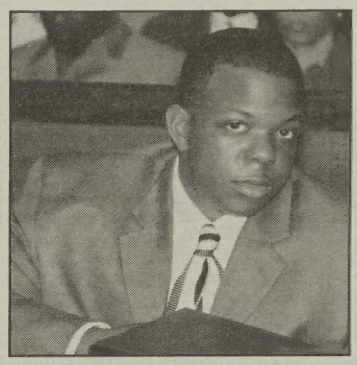
"I've seen a lot of public posturing from them, but they've actually not engaged any of the vocal openly gay students in their efforts," said Kevin Bynes, member of African Americans for Safe Space Everywhere For All, an ad hoc group of Atlanta University Center students and activists formed after the attack last November.

"Everything Morehouse said they were going to do is good, but I've just seen paperwork," he said.

Report due this month

In the wake of the beating, critics accused Morehouse of not doing enough to stem homophobia on the all-male campus.

After facing criticism for initially remaining silent in the wake of the Nov. 3 beating, Morehouse President Walter Massey spoke to students at a Nov. 19 assembly, where he announced a Blue Ribbon Panel to "address a broad range of issues" made up of "local members and national experts."



Aaron Price was convicted of assault and battery but acquitted on hate crime charges in an attack that raised questions about alleged homophobia on the Morehouse College campus. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

"This panel is just one example of our ongoing efforts to openly and honestly address issues of homophobia and promote tolerance," Massey said in a written statement issued at the time.

But Massey again drew criticism from gay activists when he refused at the assembly to call the attack on Love a hate crime.

"The responsibility to label anything a hate crime lies with the Fulton County District Attorney," Massey said.

While Morehouse officials were unwilling this week to grant interviews on their efforts to lessen homophobia, they provided a laundry list of activities titled, "Morehouse College: A Model for Tolerance and Diversity."

The highlight of that document is the panel, made up of a National Advisory Committee and a Local Advisory Committee. The national group is charged with identifying "best practices for addressing issues of homophobia, violence and intolerance in academic environments," among other tasks.

The Local Advisory Committee is supposed to focus on specific instances of homophobia on campus, as well as advise Massey.

The document also lists a variety of steps taken during the spring semester, including a campus-wide discussion campaign called "Expect Respect" and hiring a residential dean to conduct mandatory training programs "with sessions in harassment, sexual harassment, anger management, diversity and homophobia."

The school had said it would issue a blue ribbon report in early June assessing the school's climate and offering recommendations to make it more welcoming and safe.

Earlier this month, Morehouse's media relations manager, Elise Durham, said the release date was pushed back to the end of June.

Durham said Wednesday that the school is still aiming for a late-June release, but added that she is not sure how much of the report will be made public.

One element of the report will be the results from 200 homophobia and climate assessment surveys administered during the spring semester, which some have called blatantly homophobic.

The e-mailed survey consisted of 22 questions, some of which drew sharp criticism.

Among the questions: To what degree do you think homosexuality is immoral? How much have you experienced negative encounters with people who are homosexual? How much should Morehouse allow students to be open about their homosexuality on campus?

"The survey was a botch," Bynes said. "It couldn't possibly yield any ethically useful data or results."

Bynes said anti-gay sentiments continue to plague Morehouse, calling it "business as usual."

On Monday, a member of the ad hoc group was harassed on campus by a group of Morehouse students, according to Bynes. The student reported it to Morehouse campus police, and one of the perpetrators was charged with disorderly conduct, he said.

Bynes said the victim was charged with the same offense.

The victim could not be reached for comment before press time. Morehouse campus police wouldn't immediately provide a copy of the report or provide details of the event.

Hate crimes law gets first guilty verdict

Less than a week after Price's acquittal on the hate crime charge in the Morehouse case focused attention on the viability of the statute, the three-year old law won in its first conviction.

On June 16, Henry County Superior Court Judge Hal Craig sentenced Timothy Gearin, of Gainesville, to two years in prison for child cruelty, then enhanced the penalty to four years because the crime was motivated by ethnic bias.

Gearin, a 43-year-old white man who punched a 12-year-old Hispanic girl at his father's funeral, was the first person convicted of a hate crime in Georgia since the state law was approved.

Gearin's lawyer, Lloyd Matthews, said the verdict — particularly the hate crime enhancement — will be appealed.

"Whoever passed the legislation did it to curry favor with ethnic groups," Matthews told the Associated Press.

State Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta), who co-authored the hate crimes bill in 2000, disagreed with Matthews and others who have been critical of the law.

"I think some of the people who have been commenting on the law, particularly defense lawyers, have a special interest," Fort said. "We passed the law because the atmosphere at that time — gay bashing, church burning — convinced me that we need to have this kind of law."

Fort said he believes what separates Gearin's hate crime trial from that of Price is that there were multiple witnesses at the funeral, as opposed to the he-said, he-said scenario that played out in the Morehouse case.

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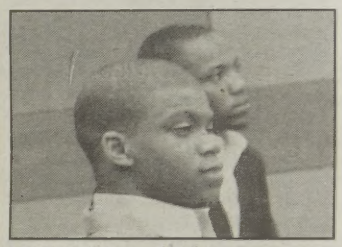
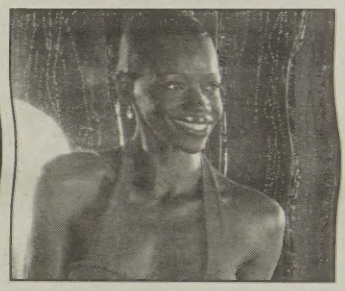


LIFE SENTENCE: Joseph Hall (foreground) and **Edward McCloud** were convicted last week in the gruesome slaying of a gay travel agent. **Local News**, Page 14



'TOP MODEL': A UPN reality show eliminated model Ebony Haith from its competition, but she welcomed the chance to be out on national TV. **SoVo Living**, Page 53

corrections

In the June 20 edition of Southern Voice, a news story on an assault case ("Judge issues gag order in shooting case") misspells the name of Erik Friedly, a spokesperson for the Fulton County District Attorney's office. Southern Voice regrets the error.

Also on June 20, a production and editing error led to an incorrect viewpoint appearing in the Forum section. The correct column, "Blame Canada for wed woes" by Michael Alvear, appears this week on p48. Southern Voice regrets the error.

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local news

Lesbian says she was raped in 'hate crime'

Former deputy sheriff denies charges in alleged Athens attack

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

ATHENS, Ga. — Former Gwinnett County Sheriff's Deputy Derrick McGriff received bond on Wednesday in a rape case that his alleged victim said is a hate crime.

McGriff, 25, is currently charged with one count of rape in the alleged attack June 9 on a woman he met at Molly O'Shea's Irish Pub in downtown Athens, Ga.

McGriff will plead not guilty to the charge, according to his attorney, Daniel Ashley. McGriff acknowledges meeting the woman and having sex with her but maintains the act was consensual, Ashley said.

The 21-year-old woman told Southern Voice that she is a lesbian and believes her sexual orientation motivated the attack. Southern Voice routinely does not publish the identity of sexual assault victims.

"He called me a big fucking dyke and said I just need to learn a lesson, and he's going to teach me a lesson," she said. "He said the world needed at least one less dyke and he was going to make sure that happened, and stuff like that."

Ashley said he could not comment on the allegation, but maintained his client's innocence.

"I have no information on that and obviously I haven't spoken to the victim, so I have no way to respond," Ashley said. "But I just see her story as that which *does not have a lot of credibility, based on her own actions.*"

Bond granted

In a hearing June 25, Athens-Clarke County Superior Court Judge Lawton Stephens set McGriff's bond at $100,000 with multiple stipulations. McGriff will be held under house arrest at his parents' home in Hawkinsville, Ga., must submit to electronic monitoring, cannot possess a firearm, and must not have any contact with the alleged victim, her family or any witnesses in the case, Stephens ordered.

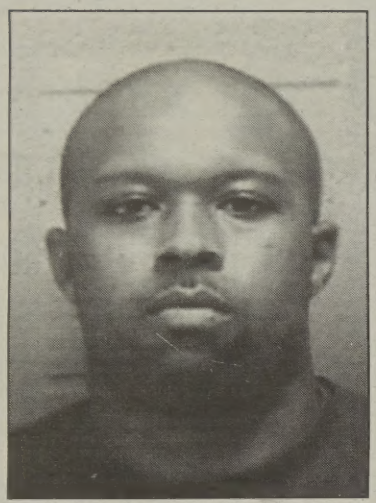
McGriff is also "banned" from Athens-Clarke County "unless he is in the immediate presence" of his attorney, according to court documents.

The alleged victim said she also wants McGriff to be charged under Georgia's hate crimes statute, along with the rape count.

"It kind of goes hand in hand with the reason I even decided to go to the police in the first place," she said. "Not only are women at risk for sexual crimes, just by being women, but as a gay woman, I think that can make it that much worse."

Athens-Clarke County District Attorney Ken Mauldin was in court on an unrelated case and could not be reached for comment, according to his staff.

Officials with the Athens-Clarke County Police Department did not respond to repeated interview requests.



Derrick McGriff resigned from the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department after being arrested on a rape charge.

The woman reported the rape to Athens police on June 10, the morning after the alleged attack. McGriff was arrested on June 16 by fellow deputies at the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department, based on a warrant faxed from Athens police.

McGriff passed a criminal background check when he became employed by the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department in August 2002, according to Capt. Patricia Still, head of the department's professional standards division.

McGriff, who had been assigned to the county jail, was put on paid administrative leave at the time of his arrest, but resigned last week, Stills said.

'He asked if I am gay'

The woman said she and a friend were at the bar at Molly O'Shea's when they were approached by a man who had been sitting with another man and a child.

"There was no mistaking that we are gay," she said.

When her friend left, the woman said the man started talking to her.

"He asked if I am gay, and I told him yes, and he asked if I had a girlfriend, and I said yes ... She works at the bar, so I got her picture from the cork board and showed it to him," she said.

The man "said he was a police officer doing research in Athens, and he had a shirt with some sort of emblem on it, so I felt fairly safe," she said.

The woman said she told the bartender, another friend, that she was going to the Engine Room, a nearby club, to play pool. When she left, the man and his companion with the child left, too.

When she parked at the Engine Room, the woman said the man, whom she later allegedly identified in a picture line-up as McGriff, approached the passenger side of her car. When she motioned that she didn't have power windows to roll down, she said the man opened her car door and sat down on the passenger side.

"He pulled a gun out and planted it in my side," the woman alleged. The man then began calling her a dyke, she said.

The man allegedly forced her at gunpoint to follow his friend's car and drive to a gas station across town, where he sent her inside and made her buy cigarettes with his credit card, with him walking behind as she entered the store, she said.

The gas station was the last time she saw the man's friend, she said. The man then allegedly forced her to stop at another gas station and buy condoms, she said.

McGriff's attorney said the fact that the woman did not ask for help in the gas station casts doubt on her story.

"She exited the vehicle, went in and bought condoms, and got back in the car," Ashley said. "It defies logic."

But the woman said she did not ask for help because "he had a gun, he was a police officer ... and I didn't think anyone would believe me."

After leaving the second gas station, the woman said she was forced to drive to her apartment, where the rape allegedly occurred.

"Through the whole sexual part of the rape, the entire time he was telling me, 'You big dyke, this is all you need' and being real snide and sarcastic, saying stuff like 'Ooh, you like this,'" she said.

Delay in reporting

After the rape, the man allegedly forced her to drive him back to downtown, the woman said, and she "jumped out of the car" and tried to persuade him to let her go back in the bar where they first met.

Her alleged attacker tried to make calls from his cell phone and hers, she said. When he walked to the front of the car on the phone, she said she locked and slammed the car door.

"He flipped out and said he was going to kill me, but I decided, if you are, you are going to have to kill me in the middle of Washington Street," she said. "I walked into the middle of the street and called my friend Steve."

When her friend came out of the bar, the man said he was a police officer and he should leave, she said. The friend refused, and tried to convince the man to leave. When he started to walk away, the woman and her friend went back into the bar.

The woman said she waited to report the attack until the next morning because she was scared and in shock, but she is willing to face her alleged attacker in court if necessary.

"To have someone who is a police officer, who is supposed to protect you, take you home and rape you because of your sexual orientation — it just blows my mind," she said. "I refuse to sit on it and act like it is okay."

southern VOICE

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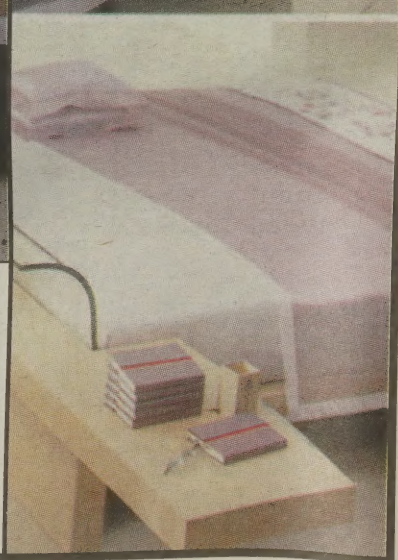

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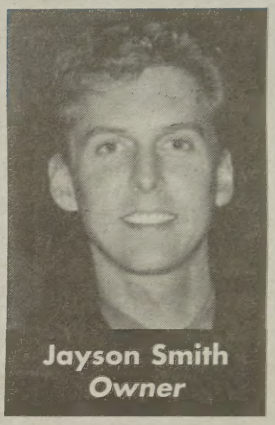

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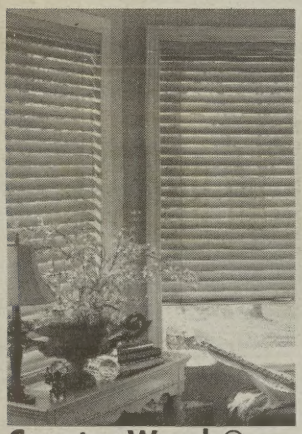

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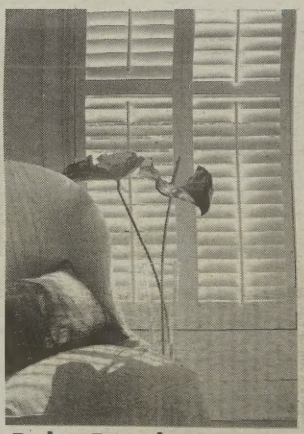

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local news

Jackson remembered as 'friend' of gay Atlantans

Three-term mayor's tenure included several firsts for gay rights

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Maynard Holbrook Jackson Jr., the three-term Atlanta mayor and self-described "pioneering Southern elected official on gay and lesbian rights," died of cardiac arrest on Monday after collapsing at Washington's Reagan National Airport. He was 65.

Jackson "was a champion of inclusion for all people, and never wavered in his commitment to Atlanta," said Mayor Shirley Franklin, who served in Jackson's administration.

Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard also praised Jackson's "inclusive politics," calling him "one of the nicest, most compassionate people I've ever had the privilege to know."

"He was a friend of the gay community when many people were still trying to figure out what the right thing was, and it's a tribute to his legacy that he was one of the early leaders in the country in fighting for domestic partner benefits for city employees," said Woolard, who is gay. "He was a friend to me personally and I miss him already."

Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor, served three terms, first from 1974-1982, and again from 1990-1994. He took a number of positive steps for gays during his tenure, starting with issuing the city's first Gay Pride proclamation in 1976.

"For the GLBT community, he was one of the first major politicians who spoke of civil rights and actually included 'gays and lesbians,' by name," said gay political activist Larry Pellegrini, now executive director of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit. "For many it was empowering to hear those words spoken publicly, considering the times."

But 10 years ago, Jackson ignited a series of protests from gay activists by vetoing the first domestic partner benefits legislation passed by the Atlanta City Council, citing financial concerns.

Jackson met with activists after the veto, acknowledged he was "misinformed" by a staffer about the bill's implications, and publicly supported new DP legislation, Pellegrini said.

"He was not as good at follow-through and initiative on his pronouncements, but he was the kind who eventually wound up 'doing the right thing,'" Pellegrini said. "People found themselves frustrated at times when his feet had to be held to the fire. But he did formalize in his platform an inclusion and support of the GLBT community."

While the domestic partner veto and the days of protests that followed may be what many gay Atlantans remember most from Jackson's tenure as mayor, he continued to speak out on gay issues after leaving elected office.

"I was the pioneering Southern elected official on gay and lesbian rights," Jackson told Southern Voice in an interview in December 2000, as he campaigned to become chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Facing an uphill and ultimately unsuccessful battle for the DNC chairmanship against leading Democratic Party fundraiser Terry McAuliffe, Jackson sought gay support by staking out positions that were more gay-inclusive than most leading Democrats.

"Any right given to any other citizen should be enjoyed by gays and lesbians with no distinction," including adoption and full legal marriage, Jackson told Southern Voice. "If they want to do that, it is their business, just like it is between heterosexual couples."

Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first African-American mayor, said in 2000 that he was also the 'pioneering Southern elected official on gay and lesbian rights.' (Photo by AP)

Explaining why gays should support him for DNC chair, Jackson rattled off a list of accomplishments during his years as mayor, including the city's first Gay Pride proclamation, openly gay appointments and supporting domestic partner benefits.

That first Pride proclamation, issued in 1976, led to "attacks from pulpits both white and black," Jackson quickly noted.

"My position has always been that those who object to the rights of gay and lesbian citizens should pass a law exempting them from paying taxes," he said. "But no one has been interested in passing that."

But many of the gay rights accomplishments Jackson cited also ended up provoking controversy from gay activists who said at the time that they felt he wasn't living up to his promises.

After the controversy surrounding the first Pride proclamation, Jackson issued "human rights" proclamations for the rest of his first two terms as mayor, prompting some to accuse him of backing down on the issue.

"My purpose was to avoid issuing 15 different human rights proclamations, and the language of the proclamations specifically included sexual orientation," Jackson said in 2000. "What I was trying to do was unite the whole issue of human rights, and I wasn't backing down."

By far the biggest gay related controversy of Jackson's tenure as mayor came with the 1993 domestic partner benefits veto.

"I made it clear I had no objection to the principle, but the way it was drafted was not well done," Jackson said in 2000. "They went back and did a better job, and we helped, and then we passed it."

Gay Atlantans who worked in Jackson's mayoral administrations said his death is a "major loss for the community."

"Maynard Jackson is someone that I really loved and totally supported," said Joan Garner, appointed in 1990 as one of Jackson's three senior advisers on gay issues — a first for a Southern city.

"He was definitely for equality and fairness and justice, and willing to step out there, no matter what the climate felt like, to take a stand for what he thought was right," said Garner, now executive director of the Southern Partners Fund.

Jackson's funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. June 28 at the Atlanta Civic Center.

MORE INFO

Memorial contributions:
Maynard Jackson Youth Foundation
100 Peachtree St. N.W., Suite 2250
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Maynard Jackson's record on gay issues

Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first African-American mayor, served three four-year terms: first from 1974 to 1982, and then from 1990 to 1994. Although his record includes a number of firsts for gay rights in Atlanta, it also includes several major run-ins with gay activists.

1974

• Issued an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in city employment.

1975

• Appointed his first of several openly gay members of the city's Community Relations Commission. The very first openly gay member of the commission was appointed three years earlier by then-Mayor Sam Massell.

1976

• Issued the city's first "Gay Pride Day" proclamation, igniting a huge controversy. Angry conservatives formed "Citizens for a Decent Atlanta," called for Jackson's resignation and took out newspaper ads claiming the proclamation encouraged "acts against the moral laws of Judeo-Christian tradition."

1977-1982

• Angered some gay activists by issuing an annual "Human Rights Proclamation" instead of "Gay Pride Day" proclamation, although the document stated that "all citizens deserve protections regardless of race, sex, religious belief, sexual preference, national origin, economic status or physical handicap."

1989

• Campaigning to return for a third term as mayor, Jackson reached out to gay voters — including appointing a gay campaign liaison, although many activists felt he was pushed to do so by opponent Michael Lomax, who was the first candidate to hire a liaison. Lomax would later drop out of the race.

• Campaign included an extensive "Lesbian and Gay Platform Agenda" and a Committee on Lesbian & Gay Concerns.

• Won endorsement from Southern Voice and GAPAC, the gay political group that preceded Georgia Equality.

As a candidate for mayor in 1989, Maynard Jackson and his wife Valerie danced at the Gay Pride Prom. (Photo by Pamela Cole)

1990

• Some gay activists were angered when a March report from Jackson's transition team, prepared by a management company and citizen volunteers, did not contain the words "gay," "lesbian," or "human rights," although there were several mentions of AIDS.

• Issued a "Lesbian and Gay Rights Week" proclamation for June's Gay Pride celebration.

• At Pride, Jackson's chief of staff presented a three-part "Administrative Order Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation." The order said that all city contracts, applications and other notices will include a non-discrimination statement that includes sexual orientation; Atlanta will not tolerate hate crimes; and the city will not tolerate harassment or discrimination by city officials, including on the basis of sexual orientation.

• Appointed three "senior advisers" on gay issues, the first ever appointed by a mayor in a Southern city.

• Appointed lesbian Joan Garner, one of his senior advisers, to the city's liquor license review board.

1991

• Gay group Queer Nation issued a report card giving Jackson an "F" on his record in dealing with gay issues, including hate crimes, gay civil rights, safety, domestic partnership, discrimination and AIDS. "Maynard means well, ... he says he is going to do his work, but when he turns it in, it is incomplete," the group claimed.

• After three weeks of repeated interview requests, Jackson responded with a letter to Southern Voice, saying he was "surprised" by the report card and reiterating his accomplishments on gay issues and his commitment to inclusion in Atlanta.

• Out of town, Jackson did not attend Gay Pride in June, but held a press conference announcing "Lesbian and Gay Pride Human Rights Days" in Atlanta.

• In July, Jackson appointed Marcia Okula as a full-time special assistant, making her the first openly gay member of an Atlanta mayor's administrative staff.

• In October, Jackson spoke at the first AIDS Walk Atlanta.

• Jackson bestowed a key to the city on Caroline Cossey, better known as Tula, a transsexual actress who played James Bond's love interest in "For Your Eyes Only." But according to press reports, Jackson rescinded the welcome after an anonymous tip about Tula's gender identity, saying in a statement, "I never would have given a key to the city to a person whose sole claim to fame was that she was a transsexual." Jackson disputed the incident in a 2000 interview with Southern Voice.

1992

• Again proclaimed "Lesbian and Gay Pride/Human Rights Week."

• In a July interview with Southern Voice, Jackson opposed unfair enforcement of sodomy laws against gays, supported allowing gays to serve openly in the military and said that, while he was reviewing a report from his committee on DP benefits, he thought financial issues had to be considered.

Please see TIMELINE on Page 18

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local news

Pride banners won't dot landscape this weekend

Lack of 'oomph' led to end of 'Celebrate' banners

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

City streets will seem a little less colorful this weekend as tens of thousands of people crowd Piedmont Park for metro Atlanta's annual Pride festival.

An estimated 100 to 300 rainbow banners emblazoned with the word "Celebrate" will not hang on poles throughout Midtown and downtown due to apparent financial difficulties with the volunteer group in charge of the annual project.

The banners, which were first hung in 1999, usually are installed as early as a month prior to the annual Pride festival. But the nonprofit Rainbow Banner Project has not filed a permit application with the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Traffic & Transportation.

Membership in the organization has dipped to three, according to volunteer Floyd Taylor.

"With people's lives being busy and with the economy the way it is, we couldn't pull it off," he said. "We didn't have the 'oomph' this year to do it."

Taylor referred all additional questions to Clay Miller, who has headed the Rainbow Banner Project since its inception. Miller did not respond to repeated interview requests.

Local business owners would like to see the banners returned to city streets, according to Philip Rafshoon, owner of Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, which sits at the corner of 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue.

"The banners are a great thing, they're extremely important," he said. "They stretch the Pride celebration from a weekend to a month. We've got to get them back up."

The permit costs $100 and the city also requires a $1,000 deposit to cover any damage to the poles, according to City Council member Anne Fauver, a lesbian whose district encompasses much of Midtown.

Officials with the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Traffic and Transportation did not respond to interview requests.

Donna Narducci, executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee, said the Rainbow Banner Project started as a subcommittee of APC in 1999 before breaking off into a non-profit group later that year.

Hundreds of rainbow banners will not hang from light poles throughout Midtown during Pride this weekend. Financial difficulties and a lack of interest led to the project's demise, according to an organizer.

"There was an agreement drawn up in 1999 stating that if the group was ever to default that we got first right of refusal on the banners," she said.

Narducci could not say if Pride organizers were interested in the banners being placed this year.

"That would be a board decision," she said. "And we haven't been notified that there was any problem before this."

In 1999, organizers sought a $100 donation per banner, raising about $30,000 for the project. But some supporters later said that they were disappointed the banners used the word "celebrate" rather than "Pride" or "Gay Pride."

"Personally, I liked the word 'Celebrate,'" Miller said at the time. "It's okay, everyone has their opinions, and I don't mind criticism. But I thought it was very tasteful and elegant as opposed to being so hard-edged. ... It was more enrolling than militant."

The Atlanta Pride Committee "didn't want people and sponsors to be confused about whether the banner project was different from the Atlanta Pride project," Narducci said this week. "So they went with something generic to prevent problems with sponsors."

Southern Voice was an initial sponsor of the Rainbow Banner Project.

Fulton vote set on 'committed relationship' bill

Supporters ready for fourth attempt, though success uncertain

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

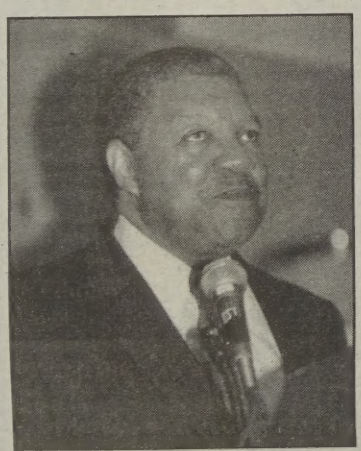
Fulton County commissioners are scheduled to vote July 2 on legislation that would offer benefits to partners of county employees who are in "committed relationships," though its passage is far from certain.

The legislation, sponsored by Commissioners Robb Pitts and Nancy Boxill, will see its fourth attempt at a vote. The proposal has been delayed three times since its April 16 introduction over concerns raised by some commissioners.

"We're reintroducing the new bill July 2, that's the game plan," Pitts said. "We've had a productive couple of weeks and I trust we've answered some concerns of the other commissioners."

The proposal would create a registry open to the county's approximately 6,200 employees, regardless of gender. The couples would then be eligible to receive the same benefits available to heterosexual employees who are married, including family leave and insurance.

County officials estimate some 125 to 310 employees — from two to five percent — would take advantage of the benefits, which would cost the county about $180,000 to $390,000 a year.



Fulton County Commissioner **Robb Pitts** continues to lobby fellow commissioners to support domestic partner legislation for county employees. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Pitts tweaked his proposal following a June 11 work session attended by Commissioners Emma Darnell, Bill Edwards, Boxill and Pitts, changing the phrase "domestic partner" to "committed relationship" to assuage the objections of Edwards.

Edwards had said "domestic partner" is controversial.

"But that's not troublesome from my perspective, as long as we get the bill through," Pitts said.

Supporters of the proposal are cautious about the upcoming vote, according to Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide nonpartisan gay advocacy group.

"We continue to hear from commissioners that they have not heard from people in their district," he said. "We know people are calling and faxing and emailing and people need to continue to do that, as well as come to the meeting on July 2."

Four of the seven commissioners must vote in favor of the bill for it to pass.

Commission Chair Mike Kenn and Commissioner Bob Fulton have said they will vote against the measure. Tom Lowe has hinted he may also vote against it if the bill isn't limited to gay couples. Lowe made an amendment to narrow the scope of the legislation during a June 4 commission meeting, but it failed to receive support.

Darnell and Edwards have not publicly said how they will vote. Neither responded to repeated interview requests.

Boxill was out of town and unable to be reached for comment, according to Sharon Allen, her chief of staff.

After postponing a vote April 16 and again May 21 without discussion, commissioners debated the legislation for the first time June 4 — and then voted 4-3 to postpone a vote until after a work session, which was held June 11.

The proposal comes nearly two years after the commission rejected a similar bill in July 2001. Boxill and then-Commissioner Karen Elaine Webster voted in favor. Pitts replaced Webster this year.

Kenn, Darnell, Fulton, Lowe and Edwards voted against the domestic partner benefits proposal in 2001.

The bill continues to draw high-profile support, including from several elected officials. State Sen. Sam Zamarripa (D-Atlanta) — who represents Midtown, among other neighborhoods — urged commissioners to approve the benefits June 4. Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard and state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates) spoke in favor of the proposal during the April 16 meeting.

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin issued a letter, also signed by Woolard, in support of the bill this month. Gary Cox, Franklin's gay deputy chief operating officer, spoke in favor of the bill June 4.

The city of Atlanta was the first government in Georgia to offer domestic partner benefits. DeKalb County and the city of Decatur have approved similar measures for their workers.

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local news

Former boyfriends found guilty in gay murder

Men convicted in gruesome April 2002 slaying after evening of sex, drugs in Buckhead apartment

By RYAN LEE

Two former boyfriends from Alabama were convicted June 20 of brutally murdering David Cook, a gay Buckhead resident who was found in his apartment with his arms and legs tied, and more than 40 stab wounds to his thighs, shoulders, back and neck.

A Fulton County jury deliberated seven hours over two days to convict Joseph Hall Jr., 20, and Edward Jamar McCloud, 22, of malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, theft by taking and financial transaction card theft in the April 8, 2002 killing. Each was sentenced to life plus 33 years in prison by Fulton County Court Superior Judge Jerry Baxter.

"We were very pleased with the verdict," said Pat Jackson, a Fulton County assistant district attorney who tried the case with prosecutor Kimberly A. Staten-Hayes.

Jackson said the jurors told her they took longer than expected to reach a verdict so they could closely examine the prosecution's 264 pieces of evidence.

They "assured us that they were not hung up because of the victim's sexual orientation," Jackson said.

The jury refused to accept Hall's argument that Cook tried to rape him, and he stabbed the much larger man in self defense. Hall admitted inflicting the majority of stab wounds and said he suffered from post traumatic stress during the killing.

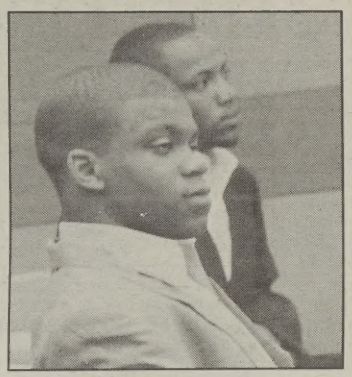
"You don't just wake up one morning and decide, 'Oh, I'm going to go stab somebody," said Alicia Thomas, Hall's attorney. "The only way people act like that is when there is provocation."

Thomas and Hall tried to convince the jury that Hall experienced a flashback to his father stabbing his mother to death when Hall was a child. Instead of killing Cook, Hall said he believed he was protecting his mother by killing his father.

McCloud's attorney, David Doering, argued that his client had nothing to do with Cook's murder, a claim supported by two letters Hall wrote accepting sole responsibility for the slaying. But Staten-Hayes and Jackson said the letters were penned by a love-struck Hall, trying to protect his partner.

"Each of these men was a party to this crime," Staten-Hayes told jurors. "Each is as culpable and responsible as the next."

"A lover protects the partner at all costs," Jackson said during her closing argument on June 21. In response to Thomas and Doering portraying their clients as misunderstood victims, Jackson warned jurors not to be deceived.



A judge last week sentenced **Joseph Hall** (foreground) and **Edward McCloud** to life plus 33 years in prison for the April 2002 murder of a gay Buckhead resident. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

"They had this man bound, they had him naked, they had him suffocating, and they're going to sit here in this courtroom and try to make you feel guilty for finding them guilty," Jackson said.

After the guilty verdict was issued and the jury was released, 10 of the 12 jurors returned to the courtroom to hear Hall and McCloud sentenced. Cook's mother and brother testified about their loss before Baxter handed down his sentence.

"One day you will understand what you have done to me," said June Cook, David Cook's mother. "You're going to have a higher judge you're going to have to face. I hope you know what to say to him.

"The reason I am standing and will go on is because of David and my faith in God," she said, shaking and crying. "You took the sunlight from me, but you did not take the joy David gave to me as my son."

"I'm grateful I had 41 years of love and happiness," said Cook's brother, John, who was also crying, as were several jurors. "David did not live one day feeling his family did not love him."

Hall and McCloud both cried during the verdict and sentencing. Neither looked in the direction of the jury or victim's family. Hall's father, Joseph Hall Sr., rose after his son was sentenced and addressed Cook's family.

"On behalf of my son, and to the family, I'm sorry," he said. John Cook then approached the elder Hall and the two hugged, crying.

"All of the families involved have felt each other's pain and carried one another's burden," John Cook said. "No member of my family has hate for those accused and convicted of the crime."

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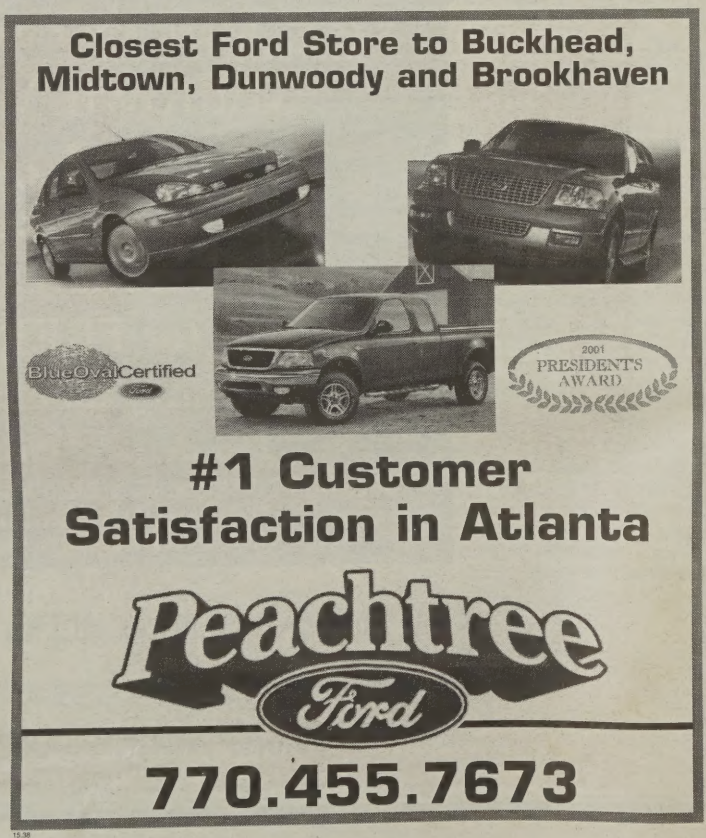


local news

Gay panic defense used in Fulton murder case

Man feared 'homosexual sexual activities' in incident that led to shooting, attorney says

By RYAN LEE

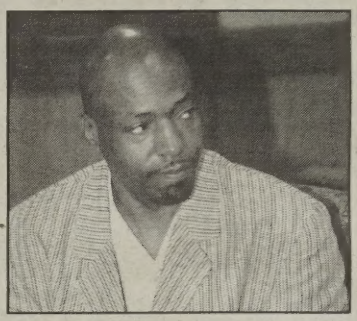
As Keith Terry banged on his father's door at 8 a.m. on Nov. 18, 2000, the only response he heard was his father's roommate screaming, "Kick the door down. Victor done killed your daddy."

"The first thing I saw was blood all over the walls, and he was laying face down with one bullet hole in his head," Terry said Tuesday about his father, Marshall Cameron, during a murder trial in Fulton County Superior Court.

Victor Davis, 40, faces six charges, including felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment, kidnapping and illegal possession of a firearm, in Cameron's death. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Davis and his attorney argued that Cameron was his drug supplier at the time of the shooting, and Davis defended himself from a sexual advance.

Holly Hughes, a Fulton County assistant district attorney, painted Davis as a drug addict who was willing to murder and steal for his next hit.



Victor Davis, 40, faces six counts, including murder, in the November 2000 homicide of Marshall Cameron, a gay man shot four times in his Southwest Atlanta home. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

Attorneys on both sides conceded Davis shot Cameron four times in the early morning hours of Nov. 18, and bound and gagged Darrell Munford — Cameron's boyfriend at the time — before locking him in a closet.

Torris Butterfield, Davis' attorney, said Davis shot Cameron after he told him he would have to repay the crack cocaine he received from Cameron with sex. Davis tied Munford up because he thought Munford would inform Cameron's family, who lived nearby, Butterfield said.

"This is a case about self defense," Butterfield said during his opening statement Tuesday. "It's about the homosexual sexual activities that Victor Davis did not want to engage in with Marshall Cameron."

Davis wasn't attempting to rob Cameron and Munford as there was nothing in the house to steal, Butterfield said. Davis was invited to live with the two men just days before the shooting.

Munford died in May 2001 from a seizure caused by hypertension; Hughes said his death was unrelated to the Nov. 18 event.

But before he died, Munford gave Atlanta police three statements about the incident, including a videotaped interview that was played during the trial on Tuesday.

"I got up and went to my partner's room to check on him," Munford told police the day of the shooting. "By the time I stepped inside Marshall's room, Victor was behind me with a gun to my head."

Munford said Davis forced him into a closet, then shot Cameron in the head while he was sleeping. After falling to the floor, Cameron got up and began wrestling with Davis, who demanded to be told where money, jewelry and drugs were located, Munford said.

Davis responded by shooting Cameron three more times — including once through the bedroom door — until he was dead, then reopened the closet door, Munford said.

"When he came to that door to check on me, I thought that was gonna be my time," Munford told police.

Instead, he said Davis bound his hands together, gagged him, and moved him to another closet.

Butterfield and Davis offered a starkly different account.

"Darrell Munford lied through his teeth about this case because he wanted to hide the sexual activities he had with Marshall Cameron," Butterfield said.

Davis testified on Wednesday that he, Cameron and Munford were smoking crack cocaine together when Cameron — armed with a .45-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun — demanded sex in return for the drugs.

"If he was giving it [drugs] to you, it came with a cost," Davis said.

Davis said he grabbed the gun when Cameron put it down to smoke the drugs, and it fired accidentally while the two wrestled for it, shooting Cameron in the head.

"Then Marshall got up and charged me, saying, 'I'm going to kill you, mother fucker,'" Davis said. "I was backing up and Marshall was coming and some part of his body hit the door and the door slammed shut. As this was happening, I was squeezing off a round."

The trial was scheduled to continue on Friday.

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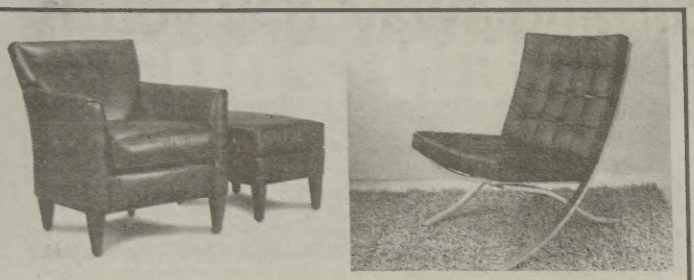

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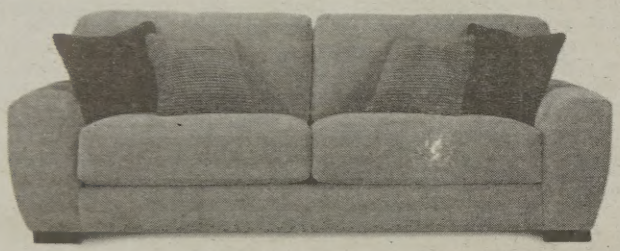

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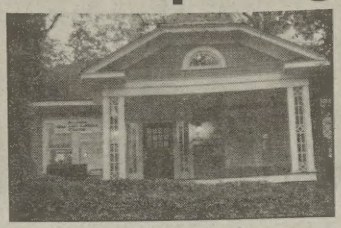
local news

Gay center hosts reopening

In wake of resignations, board vows not to 'micro-manage'

By VAN GOWER



The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center held a reception and meeting last week to discuss plans for the facility, now located on 11th Street in Midtown. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center held a reopening reception and informational meeting June 21 in its new 11th Street location to welcome constituents and spell out plans for the Center's future.

The meeting house has been open for a month. It is located adjacent to the Center's main facility, a bungalow that houses offices and a health clinic that offers HIV and STD testing and Hepatitis A and B vaccines.

On loan to the Center until its owner finds a buyer, the meeting house holds two upstairs rooms, which will be used for support groups. The downstairs also offers space for meetings, social events and other Center affairs.

When programs and services are back in full swing, Center Manager Melvin Stringer said he hopes the facility will be a place of refuge for Atlanta's gays.

"This is a place to come put your feet up, read a magazine, and talk about anything or nothing," Stringer said. "This should be a place where you can come and relax. We want this to be the Switzerland of Atlanta."

But the Center's recent history, including its move earlier this year from Ralph McGill Boulevard to Midtown, has been troubled.

Four of the Center's nine members resigned last month, citing conflicts with Board Chair Lolethia Chapman and concerns that a small group of people controlled too many of the Center's decisions.

The leadership structure has since been reorganized to improve the Center's chances of growth and survival, Chapman told those who attended last week's meeting.

To that end, the Center's leadership is being decentralized by relegating decision-making power to six committees.

"The board of directors no longer micro-manages," Chapman said. "We want people to say what they want us to have. People have got to volunteer as well. It takes a community to run the Center."

In addition to reorganizing its leadership structure and offering services such as support groups, the Center re-opened its health clinic on June 23 after it had been temporarily closed for the move and personnel changes.

While the clinic is fully operational again, Center leaders hope that more services can be offered and more expansions can be made, Stringer said.

"We are trying to grow the clinic and make it more user friendly," he said.

MORE INFO
Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center
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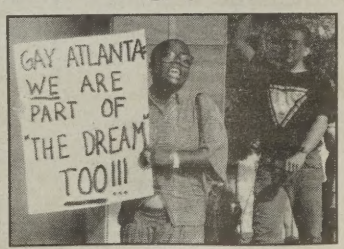
Maynard Jackson's record on gay issues

JACKSON TIMELINE, continued from Page 10



In 1993, Jackson incited protests at City Hall when he vetoed the first domestic partner benefits legislation approved by the City Council.

1993

• At the end of June, the Atlanta City Council approved by a 14-2 vote legislation creating a domestic partner registry, and approved DP benefits for city workers by a closer 9-7 vote. Jackson, expected to support both, signed the registry into law, but vetoed the DP benefits by fax while on a trip out of the country. Jackson said the benefits would be too expensive. The city's finance department had estimated the cost at $3 million annually, a figure those supporting the benefits said was grossly inflated.

• Furious activists — including Jackson's own gay special assistant and senior advisers — reacted with shock and anger. Intensive protests followed over the July 4 weekend, including a demonstration of 200 protesters outside of City Hall and a protest at Jackson's home where 25 activists covered themselves with ketchup and rolled in his driveway to symbolize being "stabbed in the back." Another 250 protesters then held a "lunch in" in City Hall to continue the protests.

• Back in town, Jackson met with gay leaders and promised to implement DP benefits by January. At a press conference, he said he vetoed the legislation "because it did not identify how much would be spent and where it would come from."

• Activists held more demonstrations when the City Council failed to override Jackson's veto on July 6.

• City Council member Mary Davis resubmitted her DP legislation, this time with companion legislation addressing the financial concerns. This time, Jackson lobbied for the new DP benefits bill.

2000

• Campaigning to become chair of the Democratic National Committee, Jackson — a 20-year member of the DNC — told Southern Voice he supports a laundry list of gay rights issues, including adoption rights and legalizing gay marriage.

"Any right given to any other citizen should be enjoyed by gays and lesbians with no distinction," Jackson said.

After losing the bid to Terry McAuliffe, Jackson was named National Development Chair of the DNC, where he was instrumental in creating the DNC Voting Rights Institute.

Source: Southern Voice staff reports

local news

Rainbow Home accused of 'turning away' gay youth

Teen's plight provokes questions about mission of facility

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The case of a gay teen allegedly turned away from the CHRIS Rainbow Home after walking to Atlanta to find shelter has prompted questions about the mission of the facility, which bills itself as "the only safe haven for GLBTQ youths in the Southeast."

"We need to recognize that our passion and assistance has been to assist an organization that has misled all of us, especially gay youth coming here for a safe haven as listed in the CHRIS Rainbow Home brochure," former Rainbow Home volunteer Missy Moore wrote late last month in a widely-circulated e-mail.

The four-bed Rainbow Home is a program of CHRIS Homes, a non-profit child welfare organization whose name is an acronym for Children Have Rights in Society.

Rainbow Home staff and a handful of concerned supporters met May 30 to discuss complaints from Moore that D.J. Harden, a gay youth from Thomaston, Ga., was turned away from the home because it was full, according to Kathy Colbenson, CHRIS Homes CEO.

"When we're at capacity, it's not turning kids away if you make a referral and keep working with them," Colbenson said.

Homes CEO **Kathy Colbenson** said the Rainbow Home must refer gay youth to other facilities when its four beds are full. (Photo by Laura Douglas-Brown)

In an open letter released after the meeting, Colbenson said the Rainbow Home needs to clarify public impressions of the services it provides.

"It became clear in this meeting that the program has operated in such a way over the years that it could easily have been seen as an emergency shelter, rather than a transitional living program," she wrote.

Moore met Harden on May 21 and offered him emergency shelter when she discovered he was homeless and had been "turned away" by the Rainbow Home, she said.

"He was being cruised by someone in an SUV at Ansley Square Mall, and he was on foot. I saw this transpiring," Moore wrote in the e-mail.

"He had nowhere to go, and CHRIS Rainbow Home had nowhere for him to go. I did the morally responsible thing and kept him with me," she wrote.

Moore said she moved to Atlanta from Gwinnett County and secured a two-bedroom apartment for her and Harden, who is 17.

Harden volunteers during the day in the Project Open Hand kitchen while the two work with an attorney to get Harden emancipated or secure guardianship for Moore, she said in an interview. At that point, Harden could transfer schools and resume his high school career, she said.

According to Moore, Harden received a ride from Thomaston to Jonesboro and then spent three days walking to Atlanta, believing from a Rainbow Home brochure that he could find a place to live at the facility.

Moore and Rainbow Home officials disagree over what happened next.

Moore maintains Harden called the Rainbow Home repeatedly between April 7, when he began his three-day walk, and May 21 when she met him. Harden was never referred to a different program, according to Moore.

Colbenson said Harden had 24-hour access to the home's staff via cell phone and was referred to the Atlanta Union Mission for emergency housing and the Youth Adult Guidance Center for program support.

"D.J. is on our waiting list and is the only person on that waiting list, so as soon as we have an opening, he is welcome to it," Colbenson said.

The clash resulted in the Rainbow Home losing at least two donors, she said.

The Rainbow Home has housed 103 homeless or runaway youth since it opened in January 2000, Colbenson said. The program is open to young people ages 17-21, she said.

Supporters of the home launched an emergency fund-raising effort last fall after learning a federal grant that provided two-thirds of the home's annual funding would not be renewed for 2003.

The fund-raising drive raised $122,000 for the facility, which has a $237,000 budget for fiscal year 2003. The financial shortfall forced the Rainbow Home to relocate earlier this year from a house to an apartment, cutting its capacity from six beds to four, Colbenson said.

Moore has resigned her position on the CHRIS Rainbow Home Committee, which helped plan a June 23 fund-raiser at The Tavern.

Dubbed "Rainbow: The loudest silent auction on earth," the event netted $44,000 for the group with $2,700 in expenses, according to Colbenson.

MORE INFO

CHRIS Homes
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www.chrishomes.org

Jury deadlocks in murder of gay businessman

Northeast Ga. victim allegedly met attackers for sex

By ALLISON FLOYD

HOMER, Ga. — Bobby Fain was a well-liked man — a poker-playing, car-racing businessman who turned a seventh-grade education into a multi-million dollar fortune.

When his body was found stabbed and shot along a deserted logging trail in rural Northeast Georgia last year, police tracked his stolen car to a pair of drug-using local residents, Patrick Cagle, 30, and Thomas Pruitt, 36.

Fain was bisexual, and the same risk-taking attitude that allowed him to develop two successful telecommunications companies and a contracting business apparently led him to answer a cell-phone invitation to meet the two men in a city park and drive into the wilderness to have sex with one of them.

A jury in rural Northeast Georgia's Banks County couldn't decide which of those men actually killed Fain. After two partial days of deliberation, the group of four men and eight women deadlocked June 13, leaving the case to be tried again.

Banks County District Attorney Tim Madison wanted to try Cagle and Pruitt together. Madison said Cagle masterminded the plot to lure Fain into the woods to rob him, while Pruitt was the actual triggerman who shot Fain in the back, under the arm and in the chest.

Superior Court Judge Joe Booth wouldn't allow a combined trial, so Madison struck a deal with Cagle, who he called a "rat sewer snake" in an interview after the trial. If he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit the four original charges — murder, armed robbery, aggravated assault and carjacking — then testified against Pruitt, he would receive a 20-year prison sentence.

But during Pruitt's trial, Cagle and Pruitt told different versions of what happened on April 30, 2002. Each testified that the other killed Fain. After the murder, their two stories converged, as the men told of a sleepless night spent driving around in Fain's 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe and injecting cocaine.

Fain's friends, employees and family — including his three adult daughters and some of his 11 grandchildren — sat through the weeklong trial and expressed frustration that the jury couldn't decide Pruitt's role in Fain's murder.

But they didn't challenge the notion that sex is what led the recently divorced 61-year-old into the woods.

"The way in which we were raised, we were brought up to be good, Christian girls," said oldest daughter Pamela Graham. "But my dad was a sex addict. We've had to educate ourselves about that."

Cagle testified that Fain approached him in a Gainesville bar and offered him money for sex. The ex-con told him he was straight and walked away.

Several days later, according to Cagle, the two men ran into each other in a Habersham County restaurant. Fain gave Cagle $200 and his business card. He asked him not to tell anyone about the recent proposition.

Several days later, Cagle and Pruitt were looking for money to buy cocaine. Cagle called Fain and said he had a friend who would have sex for money.

Cagle says he and Pruitt met Fain at a small park across the street from the Banks County Courthouse.

Pruitt jumped in the Tahoe with Fain and took off, Cagle said. Cagle followed in an Isuzu pickup truck that he stole the week before from a family friend.

Police arrested Cagle, who led them to Fain's body, a day later, when the On-Star tracking device in Fain's Tahoe led them to the SUV. Pruitt was arrested several days later.

Madison, the district attorney, said he will try to rescind Cagle's guilty plea and try the men together.

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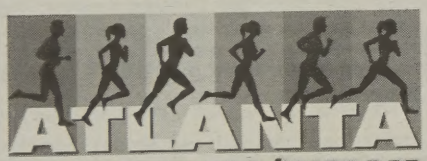

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GUEST OF HONOR
Sgt. Connie Locke
Atlanta Police Department
Gay Liaison Officer

national news

Ariz. governor bans anti-gay bias in state agencies

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, signed an executive order June 21 barring state agencies from discriminating based on sexual orientation, the Arizona Republic reported. "To the people of Arizona, I say, 'Welcome to a new Arizona,'" Napolitano said, announcing the order at the Arizona Human Rights Fund dinner. "It's the right thing to do because it sends the message that we're going to value people on their workplace merit, and that's the beginning and the end, period." Officials with the Human Rights Fund, which lobbied for the measure, praised the move. "It's one more step forward for us in gaining the rights that everyone else takes for granted," said Kathie Gummere, Arizona Human Rights Fund public affairs director. But the Center for Arizona Policy called the order "an outrage." "If one governor can put it in, the next can rescind it," said Len Munsil, president of the conservative Christian group.

Arizona Gov. **Janet Napolitano** said her order banning bias based on sexual orientation is 'the right thing to do' for state workers. (Photo by AP)

Gay employees at Justice Department hold Pride event despite snub

WASHINGTON — Department of Justice Pride members held their annual awards ceremony in the Russell Caucus Room on June 20 and honored Joseph Clark of the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office and Susan Sommer from the Lambda Legal Defense Fund for their contributions to gay equality. The event, sponsored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who did not attend, lasted for nearly two hours with speeches by DOJ Pride members and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who is gay. Originally scheduled to be held in the Department of Justice's Great Hall, the event denied by the department earlier this month because the employee association, DOJ Pride, did not have an official presidential proclamation. In recent weeks, the department agreed to allow the event to go on as scheduled, but said the group would not receive any official sponsorship. DOJ Pride President Marina Colby took time out of the ceremony to honor those employees not present who might "fear retaliation for attending" such an event. About 150 people attended.

Gay bias complaint filed under new Orlando law

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Six months after Orlando passed an ordinance barring sexual orientation discrimination, a man filed the first complaint under the law alleging he was kicked out of a sports bar because he is gay. Roger Welch said a bartender at Players Sports Pub told him to leave Feb. 13 after Welch mentioned to another patron that he was gay. Welch said he refused to leave but the bartender called police and he was cited for trespassing. The city's human relations department was investigating the complaint, but wouldn't release any details. A manager at Players Sports Pub declined comment. The Orlando city council voted in December to add "sexual orientation" to the list of categories in the city's anti-discrimination protection law, which includes employment, housing and public accommodations.

Calif. high court limits judges' membership in Boy Scouts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California judges who are members of the Boy Scouts of America may have to disqualify themselves from hearing cases involving anti-gay discrimination, the state Supreme Court announced June 12. But the state's top court, which sets rules for California's 2,000-member judiciary, did not bar judges from being members of the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts, as several local bar associations requested. Under the new rule, judges would either have to step down or notify litigants in cases dealing with discrimination in the workplace against gays, and "any case involving gay adoptions or cases in which the sexuality of the litigant is an issue," said Angela Bradstreet, the former San Francisco Bar Association president who urged the Supreme Court to alter its rules. Gregg Shields, the scouts' spokesperson, said the original proposal to ban scout membership by judges "would be inappropriate and unconstitutional."

Soldier's mom continues fight against general's promotion

WASHINGTON — Pat Kutteles, mother of slain Army Pfc. Barry Winchell, returned to Capitol Hill on June 17 to again lobby against Major General Robert Clark's promotion to lieutenant general, NBC Nightly News reported. Clark served as commander at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1999 when Winchell was beaten to death in his barracks by fellow soldiers who believed he was gay because he had a transgendered girlfriend. An Army investigation found that Clark was not responsible for Winchell's death, but said soldiers at the base had not been properly trained on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. "If he's promoted, then everything that surrounded Barry's death and Barry himself didn't matter," Kutteles told NBC. Clark has declined interviews on the subject. He met with Winchell's parents last month, but Kutteles said he did not apologize and they remain upset that he did not attend their son's memorial service or contact them earlier. "How can you spend four years, four years and never once call on us, never acknowledge in a face-to-face meeting our child's death," she said.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Supreme Court strikes down sodomy laws

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — In a sweeping victory for gay rights advocates, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned sodomy laws in 13 states on Thursday, declaring that gay couples, as well as heterosexuals, have a constitutional right to privacy in the area of "private sexual conduct."

Attorneys called the 6-3 decision in the case, known as Lawrence v. Texas, a stunning victory for the gay rights movement because of the specific legal changes it will bring about and because of its strongly worded declaration on behalf of privacy rights for gays.

"The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime," states the majority opinion, written by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

How the justices ruled, Page 22
Decision draws reaction in Houston, Page 93

The case stems from a decision by two gay men from a Houston suburb to challenge the constitutionality of the Texas "homosexual conduct" law. The law makes it a crime for consenting adults of the same gender to have oral or anal sex in private, while allowing heterosexuals to commit the same acts legally.

The two men, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, were arrested by Harris County, Texas, sheriff's deputies on Sept. 17, 1998, after the deputies barged into the bedroom of Lawrence's apartment and observed the men engaging in anal intercourse.

Both men pleaded "no contest" to the charge and were fined $200 each. The plea, which has the legal effect of a conviction, could have resulted in several states adding their names to police sex offender lists.

"We are very pleased with the ruling," Lawrence said at a news conference Thursday. "We never chose to be public figures. This ruling allows us to get on with our lives and opens the door for gay people across the country to be treated equally."

Attorneys affiliated with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which represented Lawrence and Garner before the Supreme Court, argued that the Texas "homosexual conduct" law should be overturned on two grounds. One — the ground that the high court invoked in Thursday's decision — holds that the law violates the Constitution's 14th Amendment due process clause, which protects an individual's privacy rights.

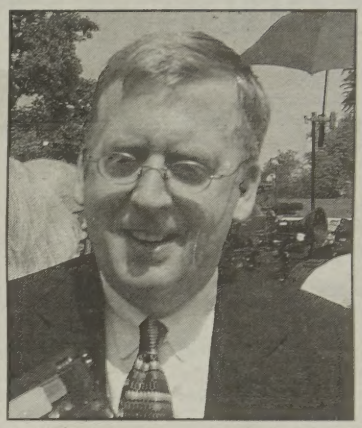
The second ground contended that the Texas law violates the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause because it singled out sodomy committed by same-sex couples and not heterosexual couples.

Had the court chosen the equal protection clause, it would have overturned only the Texas sodomy law and sodomy laws in three other states — Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, all of which outlaw homosexual sodomy only.

By choosing to overturn the Texas law on the "privacy" rights ground, the Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws in the four states in which they apply only to gays as well as in nine more states, where the laws apply to both homosexuals and heterosexuals.

The nine states include Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah. Also included in this category is Puerto Rico.

Perhaps most important, the court's ruling overturns the court's own 1986 decision known as Bowers v. Hardwick. That decision upheld Georgia's sodomy law on grounds that the law did not violate the Constitution's 14th Amendment assurance of privacy rights.



Paul Smith, the gay attorney who argued on behalf of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund to overturn the Texas sodomy law, called Thursday's decision from the U.S. Supreme Court 'a great victory for all Americans.' (Photo by Liz Flyntz)

"To hold that the act of homosexual sodomy is somehow protected as a fundamental right would be to cast aside millennia of moral teaching," then Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote in a concurring opinion.

Michael Bowers, the former Georgia Attorney General who fought all the way to the Supreme Court in 1986 supporting the state's sodomy law, said he "won't have to talk about [the case] any more."

"It was never a cause. [The Hardwick case] was something we did. I'm not trying to justify it to you, but I'm telling you straight, it was a very matter of fact decision to move forward with the case, but it wasn't a cause I was pushing," Bowers said Thursday.

Gay activists lauded the court decision.

"It's a great victory for all Americans because now all Americans are protected from government intrusion into their bedrooms," said Paul Smith, a gay attorney who argued the case for overturning the Texas law before the court's oral argument session in March.

"They didn't make the 'equal protection' argument because that argument didn't need to be reached," Smith said. "They said anybody, gay or straight, has a right to make choices about their sexual partners and their sexual practices in the privacy of their homes."

Joining Kennedy in signing on to the majority opinion to overturn the Texas statute on "privacy" grounds were Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen Breyer. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor filed a concurring opinion that supported overturning the Texas law, but based her opinion on the "equal protection" argument.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissenting opinion, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas signing on to Scalia's dissent. Thomas also filed a separate dissenting opinion.

In his dissent, Scalia called the majority opinion a loss of the "people's right" to make laws through their elected leaders that take stands on "moral" issues.

"It is clear from this that the court has taken sides in the cultural wars," Scalia said, in a statement delivered from the bench.

Kennedy appeared to set the stage for the majority opinion when he described in his opinion the rationale for the decision.

"The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The state cannot demand their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

ON THE WEB

To read both the majority and dissenting opinions of the Supreme Court justices, click on www.sovo.com

NEWS ANALYSIS

Broad ruling sets stage for gay marriage debate

Justices disagree on impact of decision in next 'culture war'

By CHRIS CRAIN

In sweeping language, the Supreme Court struck down the Texas sodomy law, and with it similar laws in 12 other states, as violating gay Americans' right to due process. But the debate among the justices was far broader, and in many ways set the stage for the court to address the issue of marriage, the next looming battle in the "culture wars," in Justice Antonin Scalia's parlance.

Even on the issue of sodomy laws, the justices were expansive in their reasoning. The Supreme Court typically decides only the question before it, but the majority opinion in Lawrence v. Texas went further than it needed to, tackling not just laws like the one in Texas and three other states that criminalize only homosexual sodomy.

Instead, the court reached out to effectively rule unconstitutional the sodomy laws of nine other states that apply to homosexual and heterosexual couplings.

The case was decided 6-3, but only a bare majority of five were willing to take the extra step of effectively striking down all 13 sodomy statutes as contrary to the Constitution's Due Process Clause. In doing so, these five justices overruled the court's 1986 decision in Bowers v. Hardwick, which upheld Georgia's general sodomy law.

The sixth justice in the majority, Sandra Day O'Connor, voted with the majority in Bowers and was unwilling to revisit her thinking in that case. Instead, she agreed that the Texas law was unconstitutional, but limited her analysis to the fact that the law applies only to homosexual and not heterosexual conduct. That distinction violates the Equal Protection Clause, which like the Due Process Clause is contained in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The other five justices in the majority acknowledged that the equal protection challenge "is a tenable argument," but they nonetheless went on to overrule Bowers and face the broader question of the government's ability to legislate sexual morality.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority, "Were we to hold the statute invalid under the Equal Protection Clause" as O'Connor suggested, "some might question whether a prohibition would be valid if drawn differently, say, to prohibit the conduct both between same-sex and different-sex participants."

The five-justice majority answered that question loud and clear: "Liberty presumes an autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression, and certain intimate conduct." Private and consensual sexual conduct between adults — even homosexual adults — qualifies as protected

Please see NEWS ANALYSIS on Page 95

national news

History of sodomy laws

1533: English **King Henry VIII** adopted contemporary church doctrine into a system of laws when England withdrew from the Catholic Church. Sodomy became both a sin and a crime.

1600s: The 13 American colonies derived their laws from the English common law and continued the legal tradition in which sodomy carried the penalty of death.

1960: Each state adopted some form of law banning sodomy as they joined the United States. *By this year, all 50 states and the District of Columbia* outlawed sodomy.

1962: Illinois revised its criminal code and did not prohibit sodomy. Despite being the first state where sodomy was not illegal, there was little fanfare and few noticed.

1969: Connecticut became the second state to remove prohibitions against sodomy when it revised its criminal code.

1971-72: The third state to revise its criminal code and remove sodomy as a crime was Idaho. A gay publication noted the fact, which caused an uproar from religious groups. The state legislature passed a new law making sodomy illegal again.

1970s: Many state legislatures began rewriting their criminal code and remove prohibitions against sodomy. Nineteen states joined Illinois, making sodomy legal.

1974: Kentucky became the first state to enact a law that made sodomy only between homosexuals illegal. A court ruled the law violated the commonwealth's Constitution in 1992.

1980s: Alaska and Wisconsin made *sodomy legal through their state legislatures. Sodomy laws were removed by* courts in New York and Pennsylvania.

Michael Hardwick

1982: A houseguest let a police officer into the home of Atlanta bartender **Michael Hardwick**. The officer caught Hardwick in the act of consensual sex with a man and arrested him. The men were charged with sodomy. The charges were dropped, but Hardwick sued in the hopes the courts would rule the sodomy charges were unconstitutional.

1986: After working its way through the courts, **Bowers v. Hardwick** was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals ruled that the state of Georgia had violated Hardwick's rights. The Supreme Court overturned the decision on a 5-4 vote. "The *Constitution does not confer a fundamental right upon homosexuals to* engage in sodomy."

1990s: The District of Columbia, Nevada and Rhode Island removed sodomy prohibitions through their legislative bodies. Courts overturned sodomy laws in five states (Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, and Tennessee).

1998: Sheriff's deputies entered the private home of John Lawrence, where they witnessed him engaging in consensual sex with Tyron Garner on Sept. 17. They arrested both men and charged them with "deviant homosexual" conduct. They pleaded no contest on Nov. 20. Both were found guilty on Dec. 22 and fined $200 each.

2000s: Courts struck down sodomy laws in three more states (Arkansas, Massachusetts and Minnesota).

Michael Bowers (Photo by AP)

2000: Three members of the Texas Court of Appeals overturned the state's homosexual conduct law, reversing the convictions of Lawrence and Garner. The state appealed to the full court.

2001: Arizona became the most recent state to remove sodomy laws from its criminal code.

2001: The full Texas Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the three-judge panel and upheld the convictions of Lawrence and Garner.

April 2002: The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused to hear the Lawrence-Garner case.

Dec. 2002: The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the Lawrence-Garner case.

March 26, 2003: Oral arguments in Lawrence v. Texas were made before the Supreme Court.

June 26, 2003: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Lawrence v. Texas case that all sodomy laws violate an individual's right to privacy, striking down the sodomy laws in the 13 remaining states. Four of those 13 (Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma) had laws making sodomy illegal only for same-sex couples.

Source: www.sodomylaws.org

How the Supreme Court justices ruled

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Thursday by a 6-3 decision that state sodomy laws violate an individual's right to privacy, a complete reversal of its ruling 17 years ago. Three of the current justices were part of the 1986 Supreme Court case, Bowers v. Hardwick, which upheld a state's right to make sodomy illegal. In that case, Justices William Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor voted with the majority. Justice John Paul Stevens voted with the minority. Here is how the nine current justices voted on Lawrence and Garner v. Texas:

NAME	Anthony M. Kennedy	John Paul Stevens	David Hackett Souter	Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Stephen Breyer	Sandra Day O'Connor*	William H. Rehnquist	Antonin Scalia	Clarence Thomas
APPOINTED BY	Ronald Reagan	Gerald Ford	George H.W. Bush	Bill Clinton	Bill Clinton	Ronald Reagan	Richard Nixon	Ronald Reagan	George H.W. Bush
DATE SWORN IN	Feb. 18, 1988	Dec. 19, 1975	Oct. 9, 1990	Aug. 10, 1993	Aug. 3, 1994	Sept. 25, 1981	Jan. 7, 1972	Sept. 26, 1986	Oct. 23, 1991
VOTE	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Majority	Concur	Dissent	Dissent	Dissent

"The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime. Their right to liberty under the Due Process Clause gives them the full right to engage in their conduct without intervention of the government."

— Written by Justice Kennedy

"Texas cannot assert any legitimate state interest here, such as national security or preserving the traditional institution of marriage."

— Written by Justice O'Connor

* Justice O'Connor agreed with the majority, but differed with her colleagues on overturning Bowers v. Hardwick.

Majority

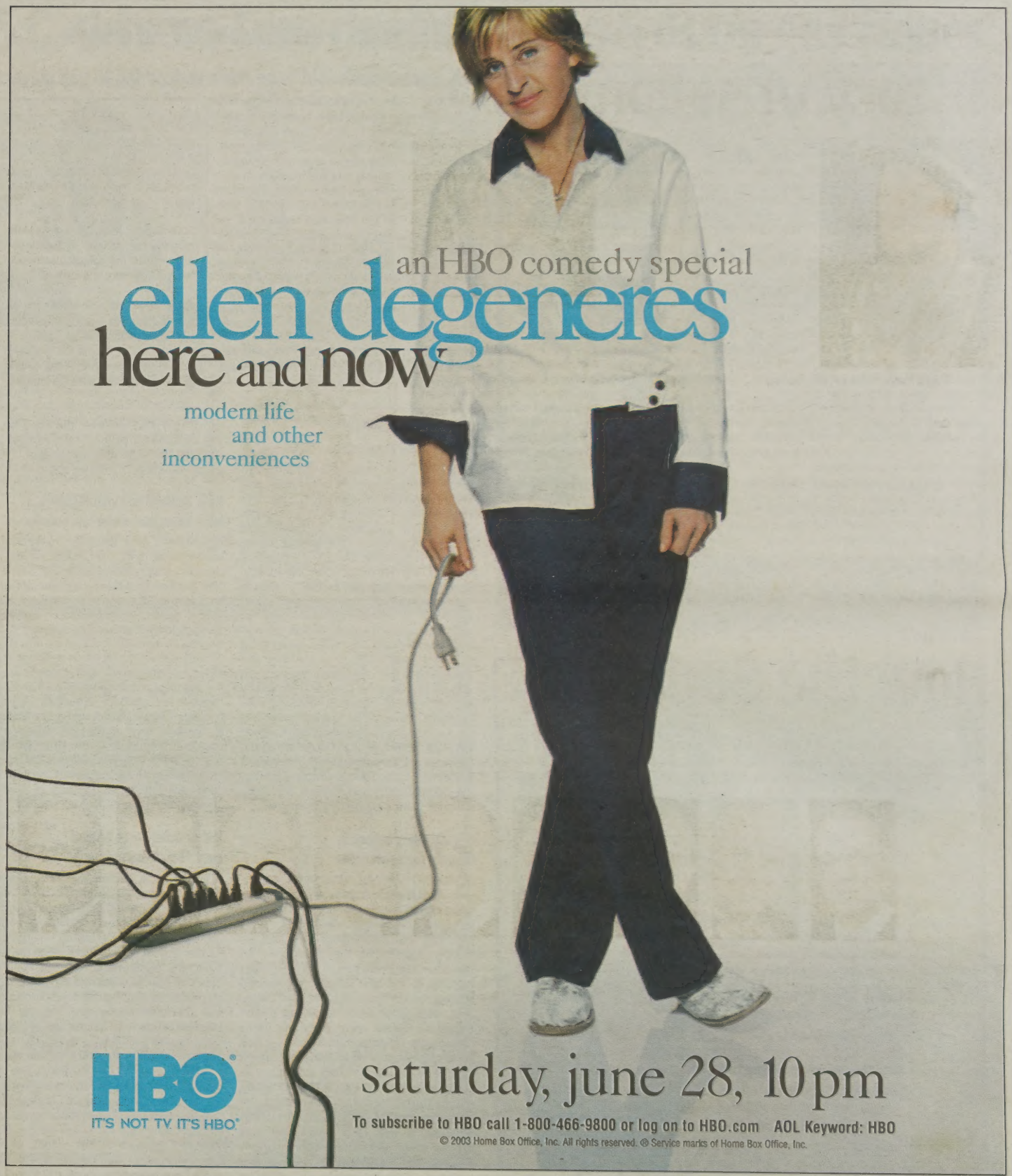
"Today's opinion is the product of a Court ... that has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda."

— Written by Justice Scalia

"I write separately to note that the law before the Court today 'is ... uncommonly silly ...'"

— Written by Justice Thomas

Dissent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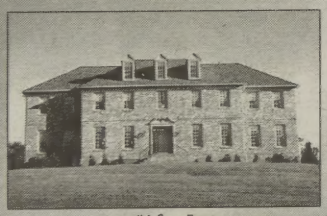
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international news

U.K. soccer clubs told to be more welcoming to gay players

LONDON — The Football Association is to tell clubs to be more welcoming to homosexual players in an attempt to halt discrimination in Britain's national game, the Daily Telegraph reported. In a campaign to begin in September, the association will say that anti-homosexual attitudes must be stamped out to make the sport "inclusive" for gay players. It will also warn that players, officials and fans who abuse, bully or assault gays could be suspended, fined or even banned from the game. The campaign, similar to previous attempts to eliminate racism, has been prompted by concern that football's traditionally macho image has forced players to conceal their sexuality to avoid persecution, the Telegraph reported. Only one professional player, the former Nottingham Forest striker Justin Fashanu, who killed himself in 1998, has publicly stated he was gay. He was bullied by the club's manager Brian Clough, who called him "a bloody poof."

Justin Fashanu, who committed suicide in 1998, is the only professional soccer player in the U.K. to publicly come out. A new campaign hopes to make the sport more gay-friendly.

Gay Canadian lawyer named federal judge

TORONTO — A week after the Canadian government announced it would not appeal an Ontario court decision making gay marriage legal, a well-known Toronto gay lawyer was appointed to the bench, 365Gay.com reported. The federal justice minister appointed David L. Corbett a judge of the Superior Court of Justice. Corbett joined the bar in 1987. A decade ago, he successfully fought to have the final reference to sodomy removed from the criminal code of Canada. He had less success several years later when he appealed Canada's pension laws to the Supreme Court and argued that they discriminated against gay couples. The law eventually was changed to recognize same-sex relationships. Corbett, 44, is single and has been a professor at the prestigious Osgoode Hall Law School. He has taught law at the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario. The appointment is effective immediately, and Corbett has been assigned to the suburban Toronto area.

Gay Muslims gather in Canada for conference

TORONTO —Faisal Alam innocently e-mailed thousands of Muslim students six years ago, asking if any among them were gay. Little did he know that he turned on the light that illuminated a community largely hidden in the shadows. The response Alam got turned into a deluge that led to the first Canadian-sponsored conference on homosexuality and Islam, held from June 20-22, according to the Canadian Press. Gay Muslims from Canada, the U.S., the United Kingdom and South Africa gathered in Toronto for three days of exploring how they can reconcile their sexuality with a faith understood by many to forbid same-sex relationships, the Press reported. "A lot of what happens to Muslims is that they reject the faith because they don't think they'll find a place for themselves in it," said Asif, a member of Salaam Toronto, a gay Muslim group. He asked that his last name not be published. "People have their own interpretation of what Islam says on homosexuality. I say: God made me the way I am." The weekend conference was organized in conjunction with the Washington, D.C. group Al-Fatiha, started by Alam.

New Zealand to expand family laws to include same-sex couples

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Rights for same-sex partners are among sweeping changes being proposed for family laws, the New Zealand Herald reported. Parents will be able to jointly appoint partners, regardless of gender, as guardians of children. The new law will also mean a same-sex partner can be deemed a legal parent of a child conceived through fertility techniques, provided consent is given. And it gives a same-sex partner the same position as that of an opposite-sex partner. Associate Justice Minister Lianne Dalziel said a key feature of the new Care of Children Bill was a change in emphasis — the Guardianship Act, passed in 1968, was outdated and based on a traditional nuclear family model that "does not reflect the diversity of family arrangements that now exist," she said.

U.K. teacher loses appeal over alleged harassment

LONDON — A lesbian teacher who says she was forced out of her job by a "sustained campaign" of homophobic harassment by pupils has lost her House of Lords appeal, the Daily Telegraph reported. Shirley Pearce, 55, took her case to the law lords after employment tribunals and the Court of Appeal ruled that the abuse was motivated by her sexual orientation and was therefore not covered by the Sex Discrimination Act. Children called Pearce a "lezzie shit" and "nasty dyke," she said, but her claim for compensation was rejected unanimously by five law lords. During the lords hearing earlier this year, Pearce's counsel, Ben Emmerson QC, argued that the abuse, although aimed at her sexual orientation, also referred to her gender. Her case was opposed by the school, which denied allegations that it failed to take adequate steps to end the abuse and therefore effectively permitted it.

From staff and wire reports

national news

S.C. drivers face dueling billboards on gay issues

Sign battle pits gay rights alliance, Christian group that calls homosexuality a 'sin'

By DELIA A. SMITH

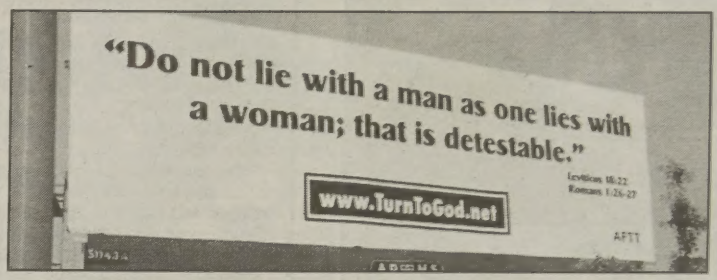
CHARLESTON, S.C. — Since May, drivers headed west on Interstate 26 outside of Charleston, S.C., have been treated to a free speech exercise on two jumbo billboards addressing sexual orientation. Both are expected to remain up through July.

One billboard is sponsored by the Alliance For Full Acceptance, a local gay and lesbian human rights organization, and is the fifth in an annual public service campaign.

"Gay Americans, living and loving responsibly, just like you," reads the Alliance sign, which features muted colors and pictures of gay and lesbian Charlestonians.

"We started doing public service announcements because we understood that most of the heterosexual population's exposure to GLBT people was the stereotypes that mainstream media seems to enjoy airing," said Linda Ketner, Alliance founder.

In 1998, the group began running radio spots, national and local television ads and billboards. Two years ago, the Alliance sponsored a billboard that read, "Homosexuality isn't the problem, prejudice is."



This billboard along Interstate 26 outside of Charleston was posted in response to one that reads, 'Gay Americans, living and loving responsibly, just like you.' (Photo by Delia A. Smith)

The Alliance campaign prompted a billboard response from a local group called the Ambassadors for the Truth that decried homosexuality as a sin and exhorted gays to find a cure in Christ's salvation.

In April, the Alliance raised its current sign, and one month later, the Ambassadors posted its rebuttal a few miles down the highway.

The bright yellow sign showcases black lettering reading, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:26-27 are cited, and a Web site (www.turntogod.net) and the group's acronym are listed.

Both billboards were contracted through Adams Outdoor Advertising of South Carolina. Jon Kane, the company's general manager, declined comment

The Web site listed on the Ambassadors for the Truth billboard calls homosexuality a "sin" that "causes problems and eventually death both physical and spiritual." The site includes a link for Exodus International, an interdenominational Christian group seeking "to minister the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ to those afflicted by homosexuality."

Warren Redman-Gress, executive director of the Alliance for Full Acceptance, said his group's billboard's cost $1,900 in production and moving fees, plus $1,000 per week for space rental.

"Our goal is to 'educate, not alienate,' and we want to establish a dialogue where real faces are attached to views-our lives are just as ordinary or extraordinary as anyone else's," he said.

Marketing experts said the competing billboards are likely to provoke questions, even if they don't immediately change minds.

"I think billboards are a replacement for a dialogue about the role of gay people in America that's not occurring," said Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications, a Washington, D.C.-based firm that specializes in marketing to gay consumers.

"The billboards, gay-friendly or not, simply provoke a reaction," he said. "They don't change attitudes, but they make people begin to ask questions of each other or in the media or in the community about what role gay people are playing."

The billboards won't change the minds of either gay people or their stringent opponents, but those aren't their intended audience, Witeck said.

"We're going for penetration of the middle group: the families, the friends" he said.

Tom Heeney, a communications professor at the College of Charleston, said the billboards differ from typical product advertising.

"I have a suspicion that because these are advocacy/social position ads, people react to them differently," he said. "It's a separate reaction from traditional marketing in that they encourage people to think."

Attempts to identify and contact those responsible for the Ambassadors for the Truth billboard were unsuccessful.

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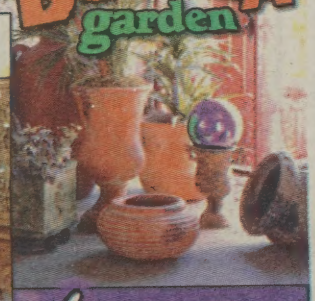

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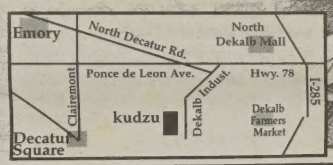

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Court ruling frees gay activist after three years in jail

TIJUANA — After more than three years in Baja, Calif., prisons, U.S. writer and gay rights activist Sam Warren, 63, was freed on June 18, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. A federal appellate court in Mexicali reversed a Mexican-government decision that Warren, who ran a gay bed-and-breakfast in Tijuana, contributed to the corruption of a minor found on the premises of his inn. "Finally, the justice that we've been waiting for has been done," said Emilio Velasquez, the co-founder with Warren of Frontera Gay, a gay newspaper. Warren's lawyers contend that he was jailed due to homophobia and police corruption. They said a young worker at Warren's inn first demanded money, then told Tijuana police that he was raped when Warren didn't comply. Police found a collection of pornography and a youth who claimed to be 17, though his age was never confirmed. They arrested eight people, and offered to let them go in exchange for $10,000, according to Warren's attorneys. Warren was also past secretary of the Orange County ACLU, helped found a gay center and started a senior's group for gays.

Writer and activist **Sam Warren** (right) was released from prison after three years when a federal court in Mexico reversed his conviction on charges of contributing to the corruption of a minor at his gay bed and breakfast in Tijuana. (Photo courtesy San Diego Union Tribune)

Fla. man accused of 9/11 fraud after claiming partner died

MIAMI (AP) — A Fort Lauderdale man who collected $68,000 from the Red Cross by falsely claiming his boyfriend died in the Sept. 11 attacks was arrested June 13 in Dallas. Patric Henn was charged with petty theft and marijuana possession. He will be extradited to Florida to face theft charges after the Texas charges are processed, officials said. Henn is accused of telling the Red Cross, the media and others that his domestic partner, Jeff John Anderson, was on his way to visit a brokerage firm in the World Trade Center about 45 minutes before the attacks. Anderson's name does not appear on any official victims lists and "to our knowledge, no such person exists," said Fort Lauderdale Detective James Pott. Henn fled Florida in December.

Conviction upheld for S.D. man who killed sex partner

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The second-degree murder conviction of Samuel W. Boston was unanimously upheld June 12 by the state Supreme Court. Boston, 40, was appealing a guilty verdict of murder during sexual contact with a person unable to consent. Richard Earl Gitter, 52, was strangled in March 2001, and police found his nude body in the bathtub of Boston's apartment. Boston called 911 to report that Gitter was drunk and had passed out. Gitter was breathing when he was put in the bathtub, said Boston, who was sent to prison for life. A high level of intoxication combined with prescribed medication caused Gitter's heart to stop, Boston argued at trial. But prosecutors said Boston strangled Gitter in an effort to cover up a sexual attack. Among articles seized in the apartment was a camera that contained nude photos of Gitter in the bathtub. The high court also rejected Boston's claim that he did not get a fair trial because the prosecution was allowed to tell jurors he was bisexual.

Iowa man faces charges in gay bar assault

DES MOINES, Iowa — A man who allegedly harassed a woman after a June 1 anti-gay rally now stands charged with beating a gay man outside a gay bar last month, according to the Des Moines Register. Matthew Connolly, 28, is charged in the May 25 attack on Michael Moon of Des Moines, who suffered a broken leg. Moon, 32, told officers his attacker forced him to say he would leave town and seek God's forgiveness for being gay. Moon waited three weeks to report the assault, saying he feared retaliation. Des Moines police arrested Connolly earlier this month for allegedly harassing a woman after a rally that pitted anti-gay Rev. Fred Phelps against gay civil rights activists outside a Des Moines church. Phelps offered a $1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in Moon's attack, saying his church does not condone violence.

Mich. priest pleads guilty to engaging in public sex

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest faces up to 90 days in jail after pleading guilty June 19 to obscene conduct and engaging in sex in a public place. Wladyslaw Marczynski, 42, is scheduled to be sentenced July 7. State police arrested Marczynski and a 51-year-old man May 14 at a public park as they engaged in a sex act, according to police. The Diocese of Gaylord suspended Marczynski following his arrest. Diocese spokesperson Candace Neff said Marczynski remains on leave, with his faculties for ministry suspended. The other man charged in the incident, Richard J. Jaquish, also pleaded guilty June 19. Marczynski is a religious order priest from Poland who ministered in Canada before he came to the Gaylord diocese in June 2000.

From staff and wire reports

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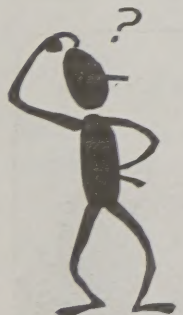

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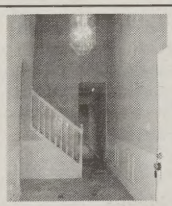

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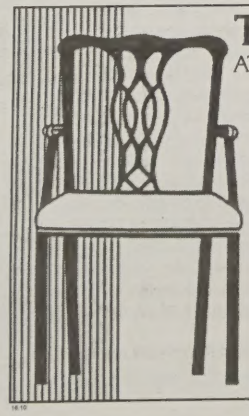

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pride news

Gay pride parade crosses socially conservative Mexican capital

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thousands of men and women crowded Mexico City's central avenue June 21, celebrating gay pride in a capital city that is showing new signs of tolerance for gay men and lesbians. The parade that was just a trickle when it started in the 1970s, filled four traffic lanes with mostly young men and plenty of curious bystanders. "This is a valuable way to show people that there are more of us than they think," said Javier Picaso, 45, of Mexico City, who marched shrouded in a gay-pride rainbow flag. "Mexico likes to guard its traditions — and its myths." Marchers gathered at the base of the Angel, a well-recognized monument to Mexico's independence. Organizers expected the 25th annual march to attract more than 60,000 people, which would make it one of the biggest gay parades in Latin America

Tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians crowded a central avenue in Mexico City June 21 to celebrate gay pride. (Photo by Eduardo Verdugo/AP)

Pride parade in Sao Paulo draws nearly 800,000

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people surged through Sao Paulo's streets June 22, dancing and marching in a gay pride parade billed as one of the world's largest. Waving rainbow flags and dressed in lavish costumes many danced around 20 sound trucks blasting a mix of techno, disco and samba rhythms into Avenida Paulista, one of the city's main avenues. Police estimated that 800,000 people joined the "orgulho gay" parade — nearly twice that of last year's event. "It's very important to have this parade to end the prejudice that love is only heterosexual," said Alex Pritt, 26. Organizers said the march was also intended to urge the Brazilian government to pass legislation, allowing same-sex marriages. The legislation has been stuck in Congress for seven years, held up by a bloc of religious parties opposed to the measure. Congress is also considering legislation banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Toronto officials prepare for expected rush on marriage licenses

TORONTO — The city of Toronto is extending its hours at city hall this week because it expects a large number of gay couples to apply for marriage licenses, according to Reuters. The combination of gay pride events in Toronto and the recent court decision legalizing same-sex weddings is expected to create a run. "Given that it's Pride Week and next week is the parade, we are anticipating higher demand than usual," said Brad Ross, a spokesperson for the City of Toronto. Toronto pride events usually draw 1 million visitors and bring in more than $56 million to the city. Toronto issued more than 175 marriage licenses to gay couples since an Ontario court ruled the heterosexual definition of marriage was unconstitutional. There is no residency or citizenship requirement for couples to get married in Ontario.

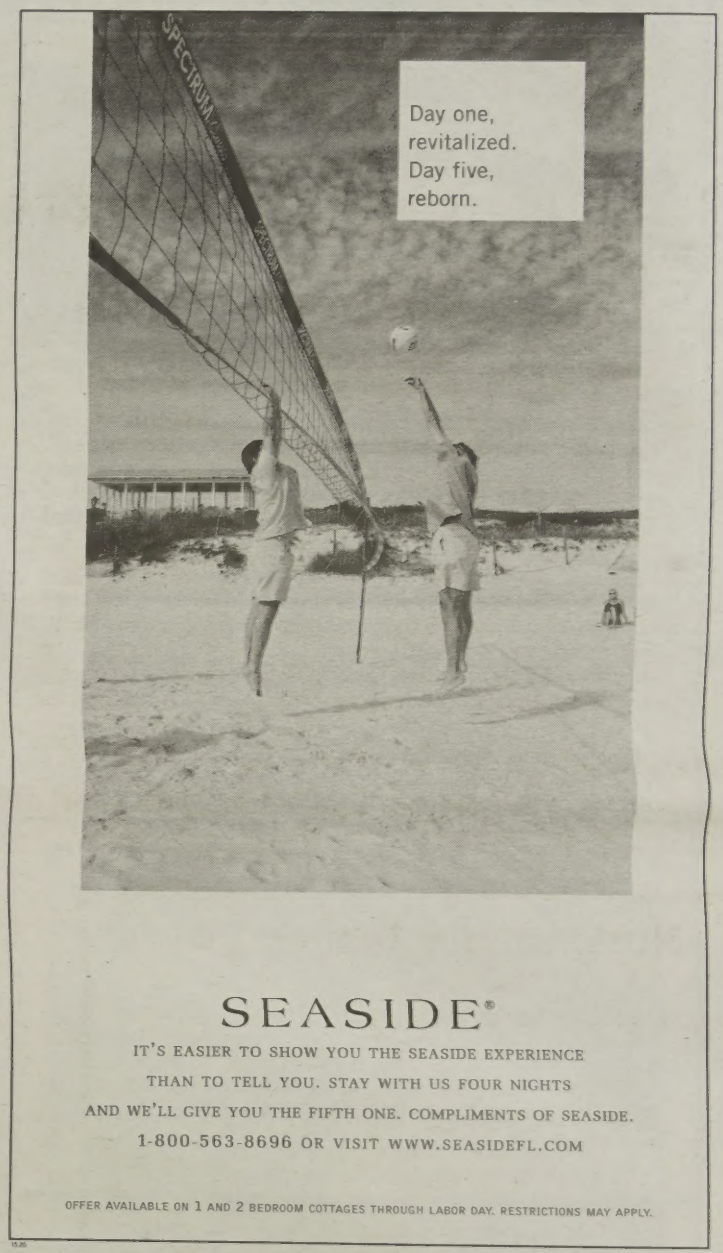
Jerusalem draws thousands to second pride parade

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of marchers, many dressed in drag and waving rainbow flags, danced through the streets of Jerusalem on June 20 as gay men and lesbians in Israel held their second annual pride parade. The parade went ahead peacefully, but under heavy security over fears that ultra-Orthodox Jews and right wing groups would try to disrupt it. Earlier in the week, dozens of the rainbow flags that were put up by the municipality along the parade route were destroyed in an act of vandalism claimed by the conservative Kach movement, banned under Israeli law since the 1980s, which said the parade undermined the Jewish character of the city. The Kach statement also criticized Jerusalem's new ultra-Orthodox mayor, Uri Lupolianski, for allowing the march. Lupolianski, who was elected June 3, gave lukewarm support to the parade. "Everyone has his own parade," he said. "I myself will be marching in another parade."

Longest gay pride rainbow flag unfurled in Key West

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Gilbert Baker, the creator of the original gay pride rainbow flag, was teary-eyed June 22 when 2,000 volunteers unfurled his 1 1/4-mile version of the internationally recognized gay symbol down the length of Key West's Duval Street. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of his original rainbow creation, Baker's massive banner was stretched along the street linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico during Key West's PrideFest. "My dream is a reality today," said Baker, a San Francisco artist who created the flag in 1978 as a symbol of gay pride and in response to anti-gay activities. "We've made a great moment in gay history and I know everyone has a smile on their faces as big as the rainbow." Baker spent in three months in the island city sewing approximately 17,600 linear yards of fabric that weighed more than three tons. Because of the weight of the fabric, three people had to work together to form each of the 25 miles of seams.

From staff and wire reports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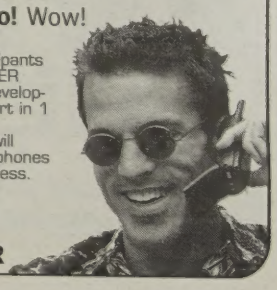

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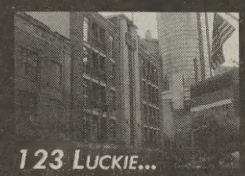

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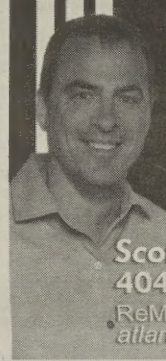

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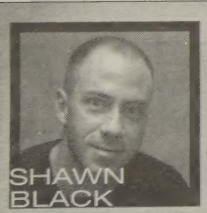

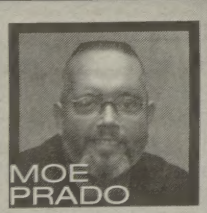

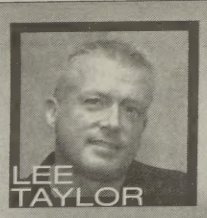

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national news

Trans leader works for inclusion in rights struggle

HRC, others embrace transgender movement with common goals

By BRYAN ANDERTON

WASHINGTON — For Mara Keisling, getting involved in transgender activism was a calling.

"When I first started coming out around 1997 or '98, I saw how hard it could be for everybody," said Keisling, 43. "I'd met so many amazing people who lose their jobs, lose custody of their kids, lose their spouses and their homes, all because of their gender identity and expression. I just felt like I had to help."

Earlier this year, Keisling was named executive director of the newly created National Center for Transgender Equality, which works to give transgendered people a voice in Congress.

Mara was born Mark Keisling, one of seven children in Harrisburg, Pa. She graduated with a degree in public policy from Penn State, and did graduate work at Harvard in the field of American government. She also has a son, age 22.

Keisling said her family fully supported her decision to live as a woman, which she began full-time three years ago.

"I'm one of the very fortunate ones whose families was unconditionally supportive," she said.

Keisling spent 15 years doing "social marketing," promoting causes like adoption and children's health care. But her experiences coming out and living as a woman changed her course toward transgender activism. She began working with the transgender conference Southern Comfort, then moved on to the Pennsylvania Gender Rights Coalition.

She was a key lobbyist for a transgender-inclusive hate crimes bill, which was signed into law last December, making Pennsylvania the 28th state to extend hate crimes protections for sexual orientation and only the fifth state to include gender identity.

Stephan Glassman, co-chair of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, another group that lobbied for the Pennsylvania law, said Keisling was a "key ally" in getting the law passed.

"She really galvanized people in Pennsylvania about the transgender issue," Glassman said. "She also brought with her brilliant strategic skills, a real fundamental understanding of the political process."

The last year and a half have seen a number of important victories for transgender rights activists. But something is still missing, Keisling said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the recently formed National Center for Transgender Equality, is working to be a voice for transgendered people in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Luis Gomez)

There are dozens of groups lobbying for transgender rights around the country, but there wasn't a group in Washington working for change on a national level until the NCTE was created.

"There are lots of groups doing amazing work," Keisling said. "We work very closely with all of those groups, but we really need a voice in Washington."

One of the accomplishments Keisling seeks is for national gay rights groups to include transgendered people in the fight for equal rights.

"It's just a mistaken notion that far right legislators are going to say, 'Oh you took the trannies out, I'll vote for the homosexuals,'" Keisling said. "That's just a myth."

Support does appear to be growing from other national groups to include transgendered people in the fight for equal rights.

In the past few months, more than 20 national groups, including the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the American Civil Liberties Union, have voiced unqualified support for transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

But the support for transgender inclusion may have come too late to amend the current legislation. ENDA will most likely be reintroduced in the 108th Congress without gender identity included.

"We are now on a curve of inevitability," Keisling said. "What we're trying to get is right, and now a majority of the people know it and get it ... And it's just a matter of time. But inevitably, we win."

MORE INFO

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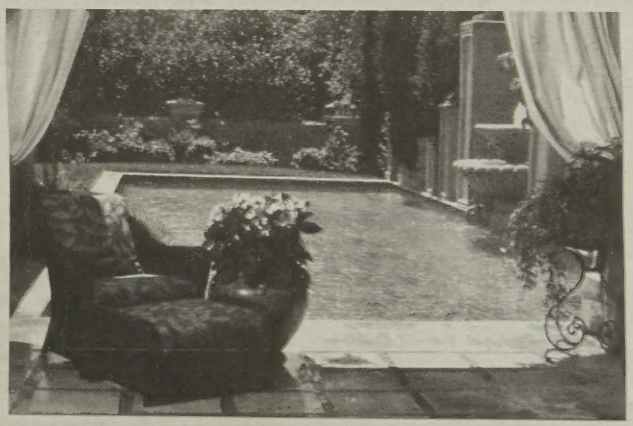

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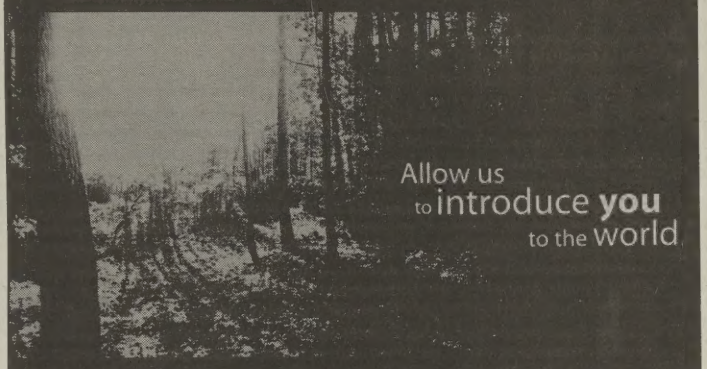

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national news

'Sleeping lawyer' case ends for gay defendant

Texan inmate trades new trial for life in prison in plea deal

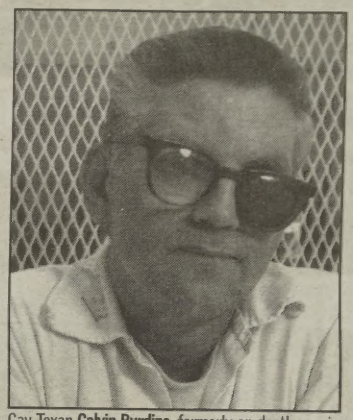
By PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON — A gay Texan and former death row inmate who won a new trial because his lawyer allegedly slept through parts of his first trial pleaded guilty last week to capital murder and will spend life in prison.

Calvin Burdine, 50, was convicted in 1984 of capital murder and given the death penalty for the 1983 stabbing death of his lover and roommate, W.T. "Dub" Wise. A federal judge reversed the conviction and granted a new trial because evidence showed his trial attorney, Joe Cannon, slept for up to 10 minutes at a time during crucial phases of testimony.

Cannon, who has since died, denied ever falling asleep during the trial. Burdine's Decatur, Ga., attorney, Robert McGlasson, argued in appealing the death penalty case that Cannon was sleeping instead of objecting to the prosecutions repeated references to Burdine's homosexuality.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life in prison for Burdine following his conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do."



Gay Texan **Calvin Burdine**, formerly on death row in a capital murder case, last week entered a guilty plea and likely will spend the rest of his life in prison. (Photo by AP)

Gay and civil liberties groups filed a 1995 brief asking that Burdine's conviction be overturned. "The prosecution clearly implied that...life behind bars would be pleasant for a gay person — in effect portraying the gay inmate as a 'kid in a candy store,'" it said.

The prosecutor also called Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensual offense, evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."

According to McGlasson, Cannon was homophobic and did not challenge the prosecutor's biased statements to the jury, as well as prospective jurors who exhibited anti-gay bias.

In Burdine's appeal, the higher courts did not address what McGlasson, gay rights activists and death penalty opponents have said was homophobia on the part of both the prosecutor and defense attorneys during the original trial.

In July 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court declined a state request to reinstate Burdine's conviction and death sentence, sending the case back to Texas, where authorities either had to retry him or set him free.

On June 19, Burdine pleaded guilty to capital murder, aggravated assault and felony possession of a weapon in exchange for life in prison, and state District Judge Joan Huffman levied consecutive life sentences for the crimes. The punishment virtually assures he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

When Huffman asked Burdine if he understood the deal, witnesses said Burdine replied, "It means we're going to do a lot of time."

Prosecutors agreed to the deal because of "the guarantee that he would die in prison," if not by injection then by old age, Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said. Also, potential trial evidence available to prosecutors had deteriorated with age had they gone for another death case, Rosenthal said.

Burdine survived six execution dates before a federal court agreed that Cannon's performance violated Burdine's constitutional right to an effective lawyer. Houston lawyer Danalynn Recer, one of Burdine's attorneys, said last week that Burdine understood that prison will remain his home.

"His experience of living on death row for close to two decades was a traumatizing experience," Recer said. "He came close to being executed and the terror of having that over his head for nearly 20 years has finally been removed. He is very relieved not to be facing the executioner."

Burdine was convicted of killing Wise at the Houston trailer they shared. Burdine confessed to police and later recanted, claiming an accomplice killed Wise while Burdine tried to talk him out of it. That alleged accomplice, Douglas McCreight, made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for testimony against Burdine.

McCreight served eight years in prison for his role in the slaying before being released.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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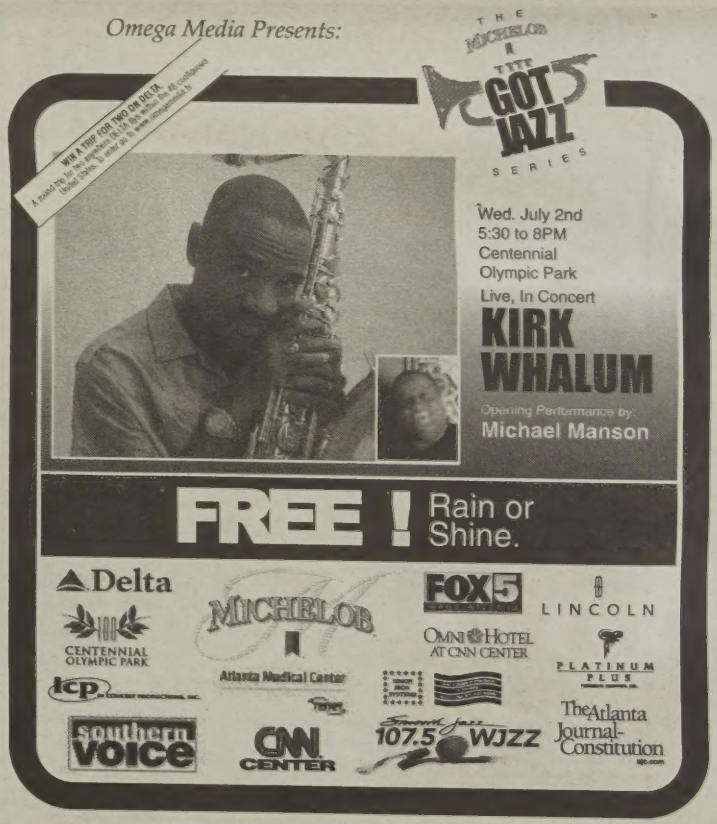

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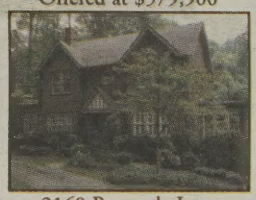

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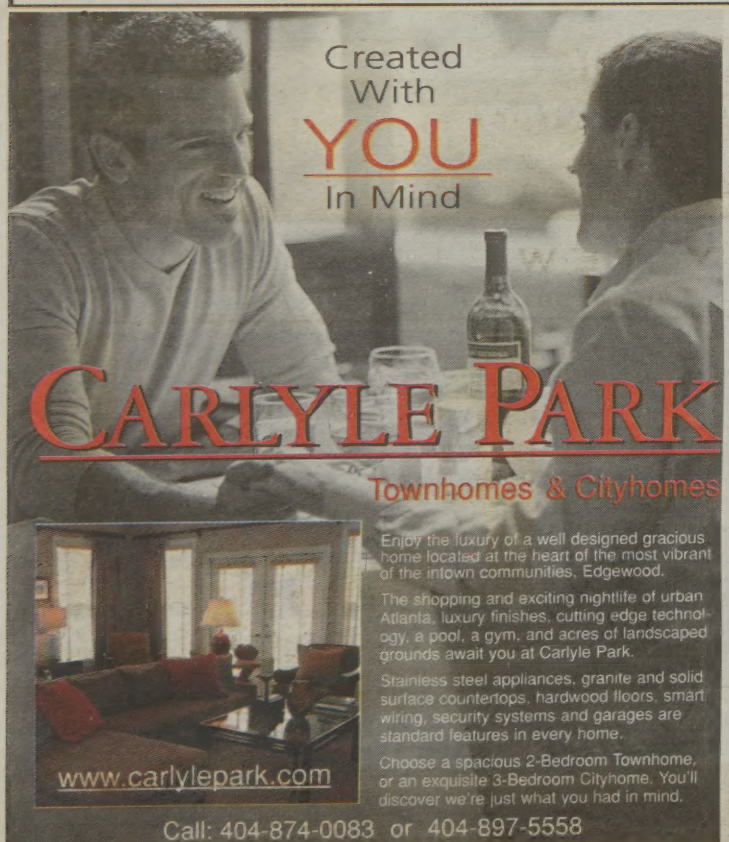

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national news

N.Y. student sues after flap over Barbie T-shirt

School threatens suspension over 'Barbie is a lesbian' slogan

By KEVIN SPENCE

NEW YORK — Natalie "Nicky" Young, a 14-year-old athlete in the New York City Borough of Queens, was preparing for what she thought would be another mundane school day. By now, she was used to being taunted by classmates.

"Since elementary school, no one wanted to stand next to me," said Young, a lesbian who has been out of the closet for a few years.

But after buying a tongue-in-cheek, "Barbie is a lesbian" T-shirt in Manhattan, Young wore it to her middle school on April 10. What happened next made national headlines.

The school's principal contacted her mother, Kathleen Hodges.

"He told me to come get Nicky, or bring her a change of clothes," Hodges said.

She refused and Young was sent home from school. But not before she was sequestered in a room for more than two hours. Young was also told she would be suspended again if she ever returned to school in the T-shirt.

On June 19, attorneys filed a lawsuit on Young's behalf in Manhattan Federal Court alleging that Young's right to free speech was violated.

Nicky Young, 14, was suspended for wearing a T-shirt with the slogan 'Barbie is a lesbian' to her New York school. Her mother, **Kathleen Hodges** (right), later sued the school system. (Photo by Kevin Spence)

"If she wore 'Barbie is a Christian,' no one would have been upset," said Ronald Kuby, the attorney and radio commentator who made a name for himself working under the famous civil-rights advocate William Kuntsler. The lawsuit names the school system, the school principal and various teachers as defendants.

It asks that the city's Board of Education institute guidelines on students' choice of clothes. It also seeks action from administrators to deal with the students' particular expression of sexual orientation.

"Since, in this big, wonderful city of ours, almost everything offends someone, you either impose school uniforms which work well in Cuba and China, or you allow them to wear shirts with slogans," Kuby said.

According to Young, harassment began in elementary school.

At 13, Young confided to a school safety officer that she wanted to kill herself. After being contacted, her alarmed mother called the principal.

"I begged the principal to get Nicky some help," Hodges said.

After no response from the school, Hodges turned to the AIDS Center of Queens, where a counselor placed Young within a youth support group.

In one instance, Young gave a platonic girlfriend a friendly, non-sexual hug in the hall.

"All of the other kids do it," Young said. "But I was told it was inappropriate behavior."

After wearing the disputed garment, Young wore a rainbow-colored beaded necklace to school. A teacher told Young that it was inappropriate because it could be used as a weapon.

"When people want to wear the Puerto Rican beads, it's OK," Young's mother said.

Kevin Ortiz, a spokesperson for the New York City Department of Education, declined to comment, citing policy on pending litigation.

After Young's sexual orientation and ensuing lawsuit was publicized, Hodges, the teenager's terminally ill mother, was abruptly cut-off from social services by her local church, she said.

Young and her mother now live in the Richmond Hill section of Queens. But Hodges returns to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in nearby Ozone Park, where she has worshipped for seven years.

Hodges, who is unemployed, had been receiving about $75 a month and other help from the church, she said.

"You're asking me to chose between my child and my needs," Hodges said.

The associate pastor, Father Francis Colamaria, told her that she would not get any services because of the publicity surrounding Nicky's case.

"I am not gay, but this is my child," Hodges said.

After she told Colamaria that she was supporting her daughter's decision, she said he told her, "you should stand behind your daughter, but there's consequences. The Catholic Church cannot get involved with this situation."

Colamaria declined to comment. Repeated phone calls to the spokesperson at the Diocese of Brooklyn were not returned.

As Nicky prepares to attend summer school for English and science, she said she is somewhat uneasy about returning to a public school. She knows that everyone knows about the pending case — and her sexual orientation.

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PIEDMONT PARK CONDOMINIUMS

AIDS groups save money with move

Agencies relocate down the block from previous, pricier home

By VAN GOWER

Three AIDS service organizations moved down the block from their old location at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. earlier this month and are predicting a resulting improvement in the quality of their services.

Before the move, Positive Impact, AIDS Survival Project and AIDS Treatment Initiatives shared a 10-year lease in the six-story building that also housed Atlanta's gay community center until this year.

"We formed a legal partnership to operate and administer the 159 center," said Paul Plate, executive director of Positive Impact, of the deal inked in 2000. "We moved in there at a time when the economy was doing great. The dot-com companies were going crazy, and the real estate market in Atlanta was going through the roof in terms of the amount of money they were paying for rental space."

The partnership was designed with its constituents' needs in mind, said Jeff Graham, executive director of AIDS Survival Project.

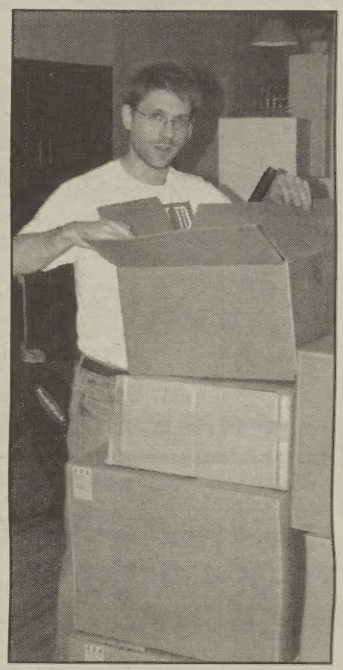
"We had hopes of bringing in a large number of organizations," Graham said, "providing HIV services to the lesbian and gay community, and services from other organizations that would address such issues as homelessness and poverty."

The three principal organizations started with two floors in the 159 building, graduating to three and eventually occupying all six floors as other groups including the gay center moved out.

"In conjunction with that period of our expansion, we had other agencies coming in, and agencies who were considering coming in," Plate said.

The three groups were bound by their lease to pay rent on the entire building at 159 Ralph McGill, and doing so put an escalating strain on their finances when the economy nosedived two years ago, Graham said.

"As a result of the economic downturn, organizations, especially nonprofit ones, were hit hard and they were finding it hard to pay their rent to us," he said. "A couple of organizations were able to find less costly rent elsewhere, and a couple of them consolidated and moved to other locations that would be smaller."



Unpacking boxes is all that's left of a money-saving move for AIDS Survival Project, AIDS Treatment Initiatives and Positive Impact. The lease-locked trio completed rent negotiations last month and moved in early June. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States were the final straw, Plate said.

"With the collapse of the World Trade Center, the market just stopped," Plate said. "It was hard to find people to rent space in the 159 building at the rate we were paying, which was a reasonable rate at the time when we negotiated the contract."

With the exodus of the other agencies to more affordable facilities, the triumvirate found the strain on their financial resources warranted restructuring their lease agreement.

They entered into negotiations with landlord Inman Park Properties more than a year ago.

"We started a process with our landlord that lasted many, many months and several attorneys," Plate said. "We knew the building couldn't reasonably be rented at that rate. We felt a viable alternative would be to move to another building where we could rent only the space we needed, and get people in there who could afford the rent."

After months of negotiations, Positive Impact, AIDS Survival Project and AIDS Treatment Initiatives traded their old lease for a smaller space — also owned by Inman Park Properties — two doors down at 139 Ralph McGill Blvd.

Graham and Plate are both elated by the result, they said.

"The new facilities serve our purposes much better," Graham said. "We are now able to have all our services on one floor, whereas before, we were spread out on two floors. The new building has more of a converted loft warehouse feel. It's casual and homey, which I think people will be more comfortable with, as opposed to being in an office building atmosphere."

Plate agreed.

"The building at 139 is much more warm and nurturing," he said. "Also, in terms of viability of space, it was a great improvement. It's more accessible and collaboratively centered."

Rent for the new building is shared among the three organizations, as it was in their previous location.

"The structure is exactly the same as it was before, but each agency pays their share of the rent," Graham said. "We're still in the midst of calculating the sub-leases to other agencies who want to locate here and how they would be split. As far as the amount of the rent, it figures to approximately $13 per square foot, plus maintenance and utilities.

"For property here in downtown Atlanta, that's a very good rate," he added.

MORE INFO

AIDS Survival Project
139 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 201
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-874-7926
www.aidssurvivalproject.org

AIDS Treatment Initiatives
139 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 305
Atlanta, GA 30308
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139 Ralph McGill Blvd., Suite 301
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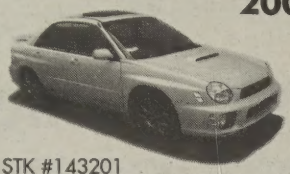
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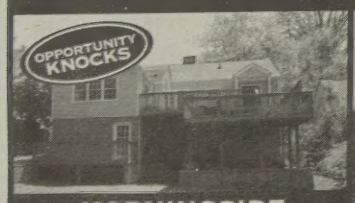

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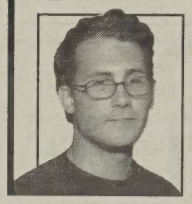

Gay **soccer** team loses quarterfinal match on penalty kicks, turns to preparations for **Boston** tournament.

Heat drops tough play-off game

The Hotlanta Soccer Association's Hotlanta Heat played in the DeKalb Soccer League's quarterfinals on June 21, but lost a tied game in penalty kicks. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

THE HOTLANTA HEAT, A HOTLANTA Soccer Association team, fell out of the running for the DeKalb Soccer League championship last week after losing the game in penalty kicks.

The Reverend Black Grapes won the quarterfinal game on June 21 in a round of penalty kicks after the game ended deadlocked 1-1 at the Avondale soccer fields.

"It is always nice to win, but we played a very good mental game," said Jerry Larrabee, HSA president.

The Heat "overcame pressure" to come from behind to tie the game in the second half, Larrabee said.

"In my eyes that was one of the best games that showed how we have improved as a team – we played very tough," he said.

The playoffs ended a 5-2-3 season for the Heat in the DeKalb Soccer League, placing the Heat fifth in the league of 10 teams.

A roster of core players competes in the Aug. 2-9 International Gay & Lesbian Football Association Championship in Boston. The team plans to prepare by practicing twice a week and playing once a week in the DeKalb Soccer Summer League, which begins in July.

HSA sends a delegate team every year to the IGLFA World Cup. This year, the Heat goes on the heels of a triumphant first-place finish last month by the HSA Blaze at the Hotlanta Sports Classic.

The Blaze won its six games in the tournament and sealed its victory with a 3-2 win over the Los Angeles Suns.

At the 2002 Sydney Gay Games, the Heat finished in sixth place, and the team going to Boston looks forward to stoking its rivalry with the London Lions — a team that HSA has not beaten since the mid-1990s, Larrabee said.

"There will be teams from all over the world with varying styles of play and varying histories," Larrabee said.

HSA currently boasts 40 active members in its indoor and outdoor divisions and plays soccer year-round.

GEARING UP FOR ITS NEW SPORTS season, the Hotlanta Softball League elected officers for its open division and women's division on June 22 to fill spots for commissioner, secretary and parliamentarian.

In the men's division, incumbent Ray Collins kept his Commissioner title, Rick McCracken accepted his election to secretary, and "Ray-Ray" Macon was elected parliamentarian.

Sybil Smith, the board chair for the women's rules committee, won election to commissioner of the women's division, and incumbents Stacey Oliger and Liz Ellis resume their positions of secretary and parliamentarian, respectively.

But incumbent women's Commissioner Angela Smith filed a protest of the women's division election because her name was not properly listed on the ballot, and the outcome of that protest is yet to be determined, said Sybil Smith.

All league members were eligible to vote in the elections.

HSL constitutes the second-largest softball member club of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance with 22 teams in each division.

In HSL action, the Dramanotz team from the competitive women's division competed June 14 in the Amateur Softball Association's Southeastern Tournament in Panama City. The Dramanotz was the only Atlanta team in Panama City and finished the tournament with a 1-3 record.

The team did not do well in the 10-team tournament because a few players fell ill, and a couple of regular starters could not make it to the tournament, said Smith, the commissioner-elect and a Dramanotz team member.

Regular season play ends for HSL with the July 19-20 league playoffs. Division champions advance to the Aug. 16-23 NAGAAA World Series in Washington, D.C.

FOR GAY MALE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIasts, the Wilderness Network of Georgia offers non-competitive sporting activities year-round. Members and those interested in joining are scheduled to retreat July 4-6 to Pidgeon Mountain in northwest Georgia for climbing, rappelling and caving.

"We'll camp on a lake, swim, take some day hikes, and visit 'Rocktown' — a maze-like area of unique and beautiful rock formations for climbing and rappelling," said Don Perryman, the trip leader.

Gear and instruction is provided for participants who need it.

"This WNG trip is a challenge by choice, so you're free to do or not do any of that while you're with us, but it should be an excellent opportunity for the beginner to try his hand at rappelling and caving," Perryman said.

sports calendar

BASKETBALL

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Saturdays, Men at 11:30 am, women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

ZAMI BASKETBALL. African-American hoopers, 18 and older. Saturdays, 3 pm. First Decatur Baptist Church, 308 Clairmont Ave. 404-370-0920, www.zami.org

BILLIARDS

RAINBOW DIVISION ATLANTA POOL LEAGUES. Amateur pool teams, all skill levels wanted. Contact Anita at 770-552-1180, www.APA-Atlanta.com

BOWLING

BOWLING LEAGUE. For single lesbians and gay men. Mondays 9 pm. AMF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320

FRIENDS & COMPANY. Sundays 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes, 2055 E. Victory Drive, Savannah. 912-354-0658

HOCKEY

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. All skill levels welcome. Saturdays, 9 am-noon. Contact Nori, 770-985-4903, www.gfha.org/womensleague.html

OUTDOORS

WILDERNESS NETWORK OF GEORGIA. A wide variety of outdoors activities including rappelling, camping, and more. For calendar and info, log onto www.wildnetga.org

RUGBY

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice Thursdays 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

HOTLANTA RUGBY. New rugby forming. For info log on to www.hotlantarugby.org

RUNNING/WALKING/HIKING

FRONT RUNNERS. Saturdays meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon, Decatur. Wednesdays 6:30 p.m., meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

SOCCER

HOTLANTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION. Practices Thursdays 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 3-5 p.m. at Inman Middle School, 774 Virginia Ave. NE. 404-299-8245, www.hotlantasoccer.com

SOFTBALL

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL LEAGUE. For information, call 404-875-9881, or visit www.hotlantasoftball.org.

SWIMMING

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. Swim practice: Tuesdays 8:30 pm., Thursdays 8:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice: Fridays 7:30 pm., Sundays11 am. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

TENNIS

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. Social tennis for players at all levels. Saturdays 2-6 pm. at Piedmont Park tennis courts, and at Glenlake Tennis Center in Decatur. 770-621-2699, www.atta.org

VOLLEYBALL

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Open play for all levels. Tuesdays 7-10 pm., Friday evenings. 770-621-5062, www.hotlantavolleyball.org

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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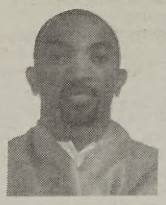

9am Pride Service

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Directions: 85/75 S. exit at University Blvd., exit turn left. Proceed three lights up to McDonough (immideately to your left is Capitol Ave.), turn right. Follow Capitol Ave. all the way up to the top of the hill is Gammon, turn right. We are the Georgia Homeless Center building. **NOTE:** Mapquest.com or Mapblast.com will give slightly different directions.

spiritual resources

BAPTIST

OAKHURST BAPTIST CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3677. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

BUDDHIST

DREPUNG LOSELING INSTITUTE. Weekly public teaching, Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.; meditation instruction Sundays 11 a.m. 2531 Briarcliff Road NE, Suite 101 (Woodlake Office Park). 404-982-0051, www.drepung.org

RAMESHORI BUDDHIST CENTER. Classes offered throughout the Atlanta area. www.meditationforeveryone.org, 404-378-8599

CATHOLIC

CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri. 12:10 p.m. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866, www.catholicshrineatlanta.org

ST. MICHAEL THE DEFENDER CATHOLIC CHURCH. Non-Roman parish. Sunday mass 9:30 a.m. 1071 Delaware Ave. SE. 404-627-7212, www.stmichaelatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL. Sundays, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835, www.allsaintsatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY. Sundays, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338, info@epiphany.org

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. The gay ministry of the Episcopal Church. Third Fridays, 7 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183, integrityatlanta@yahoogroups.com

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Wednesdays 12:10 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 1790 LaVista Road. 404-634-3336, www.stbartsatlanta.org

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. May 25 — Aug. 31 Sundays, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Sundays 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., & 6 p.m. 435 Peachtree St. NE 404-873-7600, www.stlukesatlanta.org

ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sundays, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

JEWISH

CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM. Fourth Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 6:30 p.m. All other Fridays, Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054, www.congregationbethaverim.org

LUTHERAN

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sunday 10 a.m. 3264 Northside Parkway NW. 404-237-4413, www.stlukeatlanta.org

METHODIST

INMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:55 a.m. 404-522-9322

SAINT MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Wednesday dinner 6:00 p.m., program. 6:45 p.m.; Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. 781 Peachtree St. NE. 404-873-2636, www.stmarkumc.org

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:45 a.m. 265 Washington Street SW. 404-659-6236

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)

ALL SAINTS MCC. Sundays, 10:50 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m. 2352 Bolton Road N.W. 404-605-7140. www.allsaintsmcc.com

CHRIST COVENANT MCC. Sundays 11 a.m.; Wednesday, choir practice 7 p.m.; Thursdays, karate classes 7 p.m.109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933, www.christcovenantmcc.org

FIRST MCC OF ATLANTA. Sundays 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7 p.m., choir rehearsal 7 p.m., orchestra 7:30 p.m. 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com

MCC AUGUSTA. Sundays, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 311 7th Street, Augusta. 706-722-6454

OUR HOPE MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. 706-202-3723

TRUTH CENTER MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets at Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger facility, 9 Gammon Ave. I-85 at Virginia Ave. exit. 770-951-1380, truthcentermcc@bellsouth.net

PRESBYTERIAN

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 p.m. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253, cliftonchurch@mindspring.com, www.nighthospitality.net

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 p.m. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591, www.dhpc.org

NACOOCHEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 10 a.m. 260 Hwy. 255 North, Sautee-Nacooche. 706-878-2226, www.nacoocheepresbysterian.org

ORMEWOOD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Educational opportunities, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Monthly upper at 6 p.m., third Sunday.1071 Delaware Ave. SE, Atlanta. www.ormewoodparkpres.org. 404-627-2216

RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

FIRST CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 a.m. 3025 Maple Dr. NE, Buckhead. 404-233-2061

MARIETTA/KENNESAW MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Wingate Inn - Magnolia Room, 750 Cobb Place Blvd., Kennesaw. 770-656-8467, revlarryhollis@hotmail.com

NORTH POINT CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 100 Hannover Park Road, Suite 160. 770-552-5889, www.npcrs.org

TRINITY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets in Frazer Center. 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-296-6064

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, DAHLONEGA. Sundays, 11 a.m. 439 South Park Street. 706 864-0661, www.gmuuc.org

MOUNTAIN LIGHT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ELLIJAY. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3423 Turniptown Road. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. A welcoming congregation. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW. 770-955-1408, www.nwuuc.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3501 Walton Way Extension, Augusta. 706-733-7939, www.uucsra.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH. Troup Square. Sundays, 11 a.m. 323 Habersham. Street, at East Macon & East Harris. 912-234-0980, www.jinglebellschurch.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 north access road). 404-634-5134. www.uuca.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GWINNETT COUNTY. Sundays, 11 a.m. 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. 770-717-7913, www.uucg.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MARIETTA. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 1240 Villa Rica Road. 770-528-9542, www.uucm.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION METRO ATLANTA NORTH. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 a.m. Summer 10:30 a.m. only June thru mid August. 11420 Crabapple Road., Roswell. 770-992-3949, www.uuman.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ATHENS. Sundays 11 a.m. 706-546-7914

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBUS. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1442 Double Churches Road, Columbus. 706-660-1442

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOD, SELF AND NEIGHBOR MINISTRIES. Sundays 1:30 a.m. An open and affirming ministry of the United Church of Christ. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-881-0880

PILGRIMAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Sundays 10 a.m. 3755 Sandy Plains Road., Marietta. 770-971-0007, www.prilgrimageucc.com

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Sundays 9 & 11 a.m. 2676 Clairmont Road. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505, www.central-ucc.org

SPIRITUAL OTHER

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Group meets to share personal stories of faith and spirituality. 770-937-5035

FIRST EXISTENTIALIST CONGREGATION. Sundays, Celebration of life, 11 a.m. 470 Candler Park Drive NE. 404-378-5570 or e-cong@mindspring.com

METAPHYSICAL GROUP. Mondays 7:30-9 p.m. 404-250-7775

MIDTOWN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY. Sundays, 11 a.m. 404-874-1937, www.msc/atlanta.com

REDEFINED FAITH WORSHIP CENTER. Third Sundays, 11 a.m. GSU Student University Center, corner Gilmer and Courtland Sts. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-872-2133

SPIRITUALITY & WELLNESS DISCUSSION. Last Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Led by Chaplain Lauralyn Bellamy. Phoenix & Dragon Bookstore, 5531 Roswell Road. 404-255-5207

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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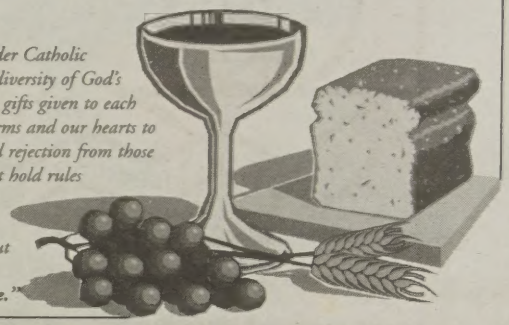

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community calendar

SATURDAY JUNE 28

PET ADOPTION. Atlanta Animal Friends Adoption Day. 12:30-3 p.m. Lifeline Animal Project Dog House, 129 Lake St., Avondale Estates. 404-292-8800, www.AARFatlanta.org

Q CARD. AID Atlanta and Cranium, Inc.'s $15 card that nets discounts at a variety of Atlanta businesses, with proceeds going to AID Atlanta. Available at AID Atlanta's booth at Atlanta Pride, Outwrite Books, Jake's Ice Cream Midtown, Charis Books, and online. 678-358-6830, www.aidatlanta.craniuminc.com

ONGOING EVENTS

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 p.m. Presbyterian student center. Athens, GA. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, with potluck dinner. 7 p.m. 770-457-5264, lambdagroup@msn.com

MIDTOWN ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am-4 p.m. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Drive. 770-913-3978

NORTH ATLANTA OWLS. Older wiser lesbians (50 +) meet for fun and friendship. Locations and activities vary. Mfinatlanta@yahoo.com

NORTHLAKE ALLIANCE OF GAYS/LESBIANS & STRAIGHTS. Monthly potluck dinner at 7 p.m. Rotating locations, contact for info. 404-327-9633, www.geocities.com/nagsatlanta

SUNDAY JUNE 29

ONGOING EVENTS

AIDS SURVIVAL PROJECT. 20 percent of food sales at Tijuana Garage from 4-11 p.m. go to AIDS Survival Project. Through July 27. Tijuana Garage, 353 Moreland Ave. 404-874-7926, x16, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. Non-auditioned. Celebrating strength & diversity in women through music. 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4-6 p.m. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

CHARIS CIRCLE. Gaia Collective, a women's circle of sharing & discussion for all ages. Bring a potluck dish. 6 p.m. Charis Books And More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 2 p.m. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, and dining-out. Time varies. 770-457-5264, lambdagroup@msn.com

MONDAY JUNE 30

ONGOING EVENTS

HOTLANTA SQUARES. Beginner classes in high-energy square dancing. No dress code, no pressure, and no dance partner or experience necessary. 7-10 p.m. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta, hotlantasquares@aol.com

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 p.m. UGA's LGBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. Athens, GA. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

TUESDAY JULY 1

ONGOING EVENTS

CHARIS CIRCLE. Weekly meeting of high school age women writers. 5-6:30 p.m. Charis Books And More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

GEORGIA DYKES ON BIKES. 7 p.m. No rules. No drama, Freedom to be. Cowtippers, GeorgiaDOB@aol.com or www.georgia.dykesonbikes.org

RAINBOW CENTER MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Gay or bisexual men. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

RAINBOW GRINGOS. Gringo's Mexican Cantina donates 20 percent of sales to CHRIS Rainbow Home. Every Tuesday.1238 DeKalb Ave. 404-522-8666

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

WEDNESDAY JULY 2

ONGOING EVENTS

OUR SONG 7:15– 9:15 p.m. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Rehearsal, First Existentialist Congregation Church, 470 Candler Park Drive. 404-222-0443, oursongatlanta@aol.com

RAINBOW CENTER WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-8:30 p.m. For lesbians, bisexual, and questioning women. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

TEEN GROUP. Ages 13-17. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

THURSDAY JULY 3

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

BOYTALK. Ages18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 p.m. Partner dance lessons at UUCA Social Hall, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Swing and Foxtrot, $10 per hour. Contact Shirley Adams for information, 404-876-3950 or comeoutdancing@mindspring.com

GET YOUR LIFE. 12-4 p.m. For young black gay and bisexual men. Georgia State, Dorchester Room. 44 Courtland St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

LAGENDER INC. 6-7:30 p.m. Transgender/Transsexual support group in collaboration with Aniz Inc. 223 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644

LATINO GROUP. 6:30-8 p.m. All ages. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-378-7722

LESBIAN READING GROUP. 404-467-4278

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

FRIDAY JULY 4

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. Rehearsal 7-9 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666, www.afmb.org

occasions

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to **Peg**, a.k.a. Hal Gresham, on June 22.

"Happy belated birthday on June 20 to Georgia Equality board member and Savannah convener Kevin Clark. You rock!"

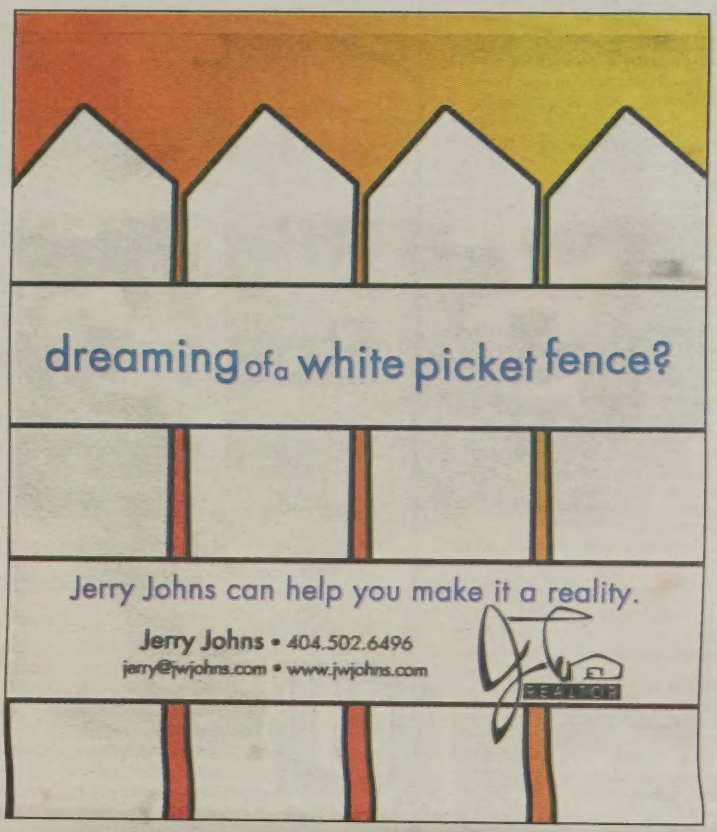
Happy birthday to Matt Burkhalter, Southern Voice graphic designer, on June 25.

Happy birthday to Ryan Lee, Southern Voice editorial intern, on June 25.

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together members Jack C. on June 21 and Norman M. on June 29.

"Happy birthday to Georgia Equality board member Mike Slaughter on June 27 and to intern (and undercover superhero) Jason Sheffield on July 2. We love you guys!"

Happy birthday to William Waybourn, Window Media president, on July 2.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Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN 202-797-7000

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ADDRESS: 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D Atlanta, GA 30306
PHONE: 404-876-1819
FAX: 404-876-2709
E-MAIL: editor@sovo.com
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editorial

Blind justice Bush style

The president says he dreams of a 'color-blind' America, and apparently a **'gay-blind' society**, too. But our victories in the courthouse won't be so easily ignored in the White House.

By CHRIS CRAIN

GEORGE W. BUSH HAS SAID precious little during his political career about his views on homosexuality and gay rights.

Those who know him — especially family friend Charles Francis, the gay Texan who organized the meeting Bush had with 12 gay supporters after he clinched the GOP presidential nomination — say that our president is personally comfortable around people he knows to be gay.

Other gay Republicans argue that Bush is at least a "compassionate conservative" on our issues; in other words, don't look for him to stick his neck out in favor of gay rights, but at the same time don't worry about the type of anti-gay, wedge politics practiced by the right wing of his party.

All this is probably true enough, but the record of his administration so far suggests a worldview that is a little more nuanced, and more than a little bit troublesome, for gay Americans — and for Bush's political future.

COMMENTATORS HAVE LONG NOTED this president's sunny view of human nature; he is a likable guy who is prepared to enjoy the company of most of those he encounters. A classic example surfaced just this month, when Bush played host at the White House to a college reunion of his fellow Yale alums.

As the San Francisco Chronicle reports it, one woman told a surprised Bush, "You might remember me as Peter when we left Yale." Bush didn't miss a beat, according to those present. He grabbed her hand and responded, "Now you've come back as yourself."

Of course, that doesn't mean the president will be lobbying Congress to add "gender identity" to gay rights legislation — he hasn't even said he supports gay rights legislation — but it does suggest a welcome personal acceptance.

That sunny disposition, and its disconnect from public policy, was also on display this week after the Supreme Court announced its split ruling on the affirmative action policies used in admissions at the University of Michigan. The court approved of affirmative action in principle, citing "diversity" as a compelling government interest that justifies treating different races differently.

The White House responded with a statement from the president praising the court "for recognizing the value of diversity on our nation's campuses." The statement neglected to mention that Bush had personally approved a Justice Department brief that urged the court to strike down affirmative action entirely.

Even more telling was the portion of Bush's statement in which the president added, "Like the court, I look forward to the day when America will truly be a color-blind society."

If "diversity" really is a compelling interest, of course, then America will never truly be "color-blind," and shouldn't be. Race neutrality is not the same thing as color-blindness, but that difference appears lost on the president.

THE SAME MAY WELL BE TRUE ON GAY issues. The president's personal acceptance of gay people has made possible the appointment of a number of White House staffers who were known to be gay, even if they are "private" about it.

But in none of these cases does the president appear to see his gay appointments as proof of his commitment to "diversity," or as his predecessor put it, putting into place a government that "looks like America." In fact, as far as homosexuality goes, the White House "line" is that it is a non-issue, irrelevant in every way.

The Bush administration's position on our issues is roughly the same, "gay-blind" approach: Homosexuality is private, a non-issue, and has no role in setting public policy. The number of closeted Republicans in the Bush administration, and on Capitol Hill, only reinforces that sentiment.

A "gay-blind" government is better, of course, than one outwardly hostile to us and our interests. But we are constituents as well, and ignoring us comes at a cost.

Take the president's AIDS policies, for example. Bush has consecutively named two gay men to be his AIDS czar, but the stark contrast between the two — Scott Evertz played a loud and visible role but was removed in favor of Joseph Phillips, who has been missing in action — suggests that the position is to be neither seen nor heard.

The primary AIDS focus of the White House has been on the global epidemic, which is largely heterosexual, probably because it is viewed though the prism of our national security. The president's only real contribution to addressing domestic HIV and AIDS has been increased funding and favoritism toward "abstinence-only-until-marriage" as a prevention policy. That approach only makes since if the administration is blind to gays, since marriage is not an option for us.

When AIDS groups have tried aggressive marketing to get gay men interested again in HIV prevention — using sex as a lure, just like Madison Avenue and Hollywood would — the Bush administration warns against "encouraging sex." Absent an effective alternative, the message again appears to ignore the gays.

The New York Times has even reported that AIDS groups fearing cuts in funding are avoiding use of words like "homosexual" and "anal sex" in their grant applications. Hear no gays, see no gays.

PUTTING ON THE GAY BLINDERS HAS ITS downside, and it is not all ours.

A number of cities are reporting an increase in HIV and STD rates among gay men, and if that trend continues it will be our president who must answer for it. (Presuming, of course, that our AIDS organizations overcome their bloodlust for federal funding long enough to rediscover their activist voice.)

Even more daunting are some pending gay rights victories in the courthouse that won't be easily ignored in the White House.

If, as expected, the Supreme Court this week strikes down the Texas sodomy law, how will the president respond? George W. Bush was governor of that state, after all, when Tyron Gardner and John Lawrence were arrested, convicted and first challenged the "homosexual conduct law." Gov. Bush swore back then to uphold and defend the Constitution, but our Supreme Court will be saying that he failed to do that. Will he find away to again praise the justices, as he did on affirmative action?

The real challenge, however, is coming from the north. First Canada will legalize gay marriage, and then (according to many court observers) so will the Massachusetts state supreme court. Conservatives are already planning a constitutional amendment to block forced recognition of gay marriages in other states, and perhaps even forbid them outright.

President Bush is on record opposing gay marriage, but how far will a president who wants our lives kept private go to squelch this issue?

Chris Crain is executive editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@sovo.com.

letters

June could offer gay rights trifecta

To the Editor:

This June could be the best Pride Month ever!

First a Canadian court permits the first legal gay marriages in North America (news, June 13). This case may be the first of three landmark court decisions making June 2003 the best month in history for gay rights.

In our country, currently before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, there is an imminent decision in a similar marriage case (Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health). Many court observers believe that the Massachusetts case will result in the earthquake decision giving gays the right to marry in that state.

Possibly adding to the June celebrations, the decision in Lawrence vs. Texas will be announced any day by the U.S. Supreme Court. Most legal scholars think the plaintiffs will prevail, effectively overturning the bad sodomy decision of Bowers vs. Hardwick.

So it is quite possible that June will produce a gay trifecta: marriage in Canada, marriage in Massachusetts, and the repudiation of Bowers vs. Hardwick. These revolutionary decisions would provide us the tools to complete the job of achieving true equality.

However, we should also know that there are those who are ready and waiting with plans to strip us of these new rights the minute they occur. I hope we do not sit idly by and watch it happen.

DON GEORGE
Atlanta

Editor's note: The letter writer serves on the national board of the ACLU.

Atlanta archbishop hypocritical on gays

To the Editor:

I read with interest your article about how Atlanta Roman Catholic Archbishop John Donoghue is supporting U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum's (R-Pa.) statements defending the Texas sodomy law and linking homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, and adultery (news, June 13).

The archbishop stated, "We must stand upon the strength of law to protect us from those excesses which have spelled doom for so many cultures and societies of the past."

This seems strange coming from a leader of a church that has hidden and protected its priests who have abused and raped the youth of their own church for decades without shame or guilt. I don't mean to imply that the good archbishop is directly responsible for any abuse, but he and other leaders of the church had to be aware of it and did little if anything to stop it.

I believe the Bible says, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." I find Archbishop Donoghue's statement repugnant and to be hypocrisy at its worst.

BILL THOMPSON
Atlanta

UNIT 21 TO BASE...
WE'VE CAUGHT ANOTHER COUPLE TRYING TO SMUGGLE THEIR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE INTO THE UNITED STATES!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO STEP AWAY FROM THE CAR, PLEASE...
U.S. CUSTOMS
WELCOME TO CANADA
BIENVENUE A CANADA
Welcome to United St

Greens push Pride against Iraq war

To the Editor:

A year ago the Democratic Party and the Republican Party lined up behind President Bush to launch the first pre-emptive military assault in the history of the U.S. The Green Party unequivocally condemned the movement towards war.

Pride is a time of year when queer individuals take time to celebrate our sexuality and the liberation efforts that have brought us a long way on the path to equality. Each year we commemorate the three-day rebellion of transgendered folks and people of color at the Stonewall Inn that sparked a global movement for equality.

The National Lavender Green Caucus, in partnership with progressive queer organizations across the nation, is urging a return to our radical political roots and have declared this Pride to be a celebration of peace and a statement against war led by the U.S. and its Western allies.

We are encouraging gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals to march proudly in Pride parades and in festivals from coast to coast while carrying banners of peace. We also encourage you to demand an end to U.S. military aggression and a commitment by the United States government to address the economic and social crises facing us here at home.

W. BRANDON LACY CAMPOS
Chair
National Lavender Green Caucus
Washington

Trans movement doesn't harm youth

To the Editor:

As a youth advocate, feminist, and out trans man, I found the transphobic judgments of Keith Fix ("Trans activists make gay life harder," letters, June 13) offensive on so many levels. Most disturbing was the inference that the movement of my people was detrimental to youth.

As a teacher primarily of incarcerated youth, I can assure you that they are far more troubled by poverty, abusive parents and drugs. Self-identity and expensive surgery are not spur-of-the-moment occurrences. Suicide among teens involving issues of sexuality and abuse are far more common than regretful sex change surgery.

I don't fault Fix for ignorance in these matters, I've only been cognizant of my trans identity for eight of my last 13 queer years. However, I've lived through enough hate and judgment in 36 years that I'm aware that moral awareness takes time. I believe Fix may eventually understand that trans is no more a choice than being gay.

JESSE McNULTY
Decatur

'THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN,' PAGE 98

THE Q

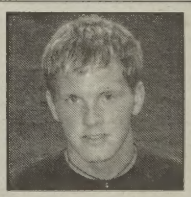
Questions about what's going on in your world

Interviews and photos by Christopher Seely

Do we still need an Atlanta Pride celebration?

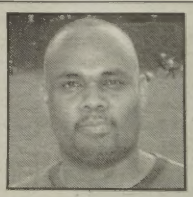
'It gives me an opportunity to be who I am. The theme this year is "Freedom to Be," and I think it is very relevant because we still don't have the ability to be who we want to be in this country. ... I spent last year in Paris for Pride, and it is a very different approach. It is very political and almost militant in the way that they approach fighting for their rights. I would like to see more of that here."

Tamie Cook, 38, Virginia Highlands



'I think we still need Pride, because it brings people together. It takes down the walls of discrimination and people can be themselves and love one another and such for that one day. I will go.'

Jonathan Jaxson, 19, Midtown

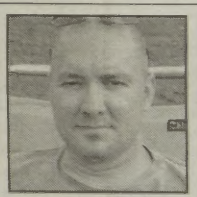


'We all need Pride, pride in ourselves whether we are gay, straight, bi, transgendered or what-have-you, black or white. ... I think gay pride is very important because society has taught us that we are at the bottom of the barrel, and we need to be proud of ourselves and uplift ourselves and our community.'

William Thompson, 38, Grant Park

'I don't know if it has evolved over the years. Sometimes I think especially with the parade, some of the things are uncalled for. But the celebration as a whole is necessary to gather our whole community together and just celebrate who we are. Politically, I don't think it means anything to me. It's just more of a celebration of our lives.'

Theresa Babbington, 37, Villa Rica



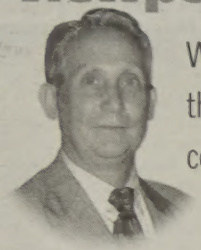
'I think we do need Pride. It brings the community together. As divided as the community is, it is a good time to get the community together and celebrate. That's why we're going all weekend.'

Dan Schmer, 34, East Atlanta

'I think Pride is definitely something we need for the community, because it gets all the people together to hang out and you get to meet new people, and it's a lot of fun. I go every year because every year is a different experience.'

Jennifer Parker, 22, Snellville

viewpoint GARY COX



When **Maynard Jackson** first ran for mayor three decades ago, he assembled a historic coalition, including gays, that is still a model.

The first one to see us

MAYNARD HOLBROOKE JACKSON, Jr. did more to diversify and bring equal rights to Atlanta than any other individual.

Little did gay activists in Atlanta realize at that time, when Maynard ran for mayor, that he would so significantly change the political landscape in Atlanta and in Georgia and usher in an unprecedented period of cooperation and collaboration between gay rights activists, the city's black leadership and the Georgia legislative black caucus. It was not even conceived at the time of his election that his presence and political style would be felt for generations and elections to come.

When Maynard campaigned for mayor in 1973, it was the first time in the city's history that a mayoral candidate actively courted gay voters in Atlanta. This would forever change the city's electoral politics.

Thirty years ago, when Maynard Jackson campaigned to become the first black mayor of a major Southern city, his ascension to power would allow him to kick open the doors of City Hall for the coalition that had worked to put him into office. During his years in office, gay activists would walk through those doors that Maynard kicked open as community and neighborhood activists working and sitting on the Neighborhood Planning Unit boards he established.

In later years, gay activists would walk through those same City Hall doors as board and commission members, employees, managers and finally in 1997 as elected officials. All of this was the "logical conclusion" of Maynard's efforts to reach out to gay Atlantans in 1973.

SOME WOULD SAY THAT MAYNARD did not enjoy the support of most of the traditional civil rights and political leaders of his day, especially Atlanta's powerful business interests.

In his early career he did not garner the active support of the city's traditional black leadership. They discounted him largely in part because of his youth; he was only 35.

Maynard was not a part of the traditional civil rights movement; he was a son of the civil rights movement. Yet he had a very clear strategy to win the mayor's office, and he did not let wavering support to deter him from his vision.

His campaign targeted young blacks, the disenfranchised, blue-collar workers, women and anyone white Atlantans who would listen to him, especially white liberals, women and gay folks. His campaign worked to register black voters and shave off as many white voters as he could.

It was a plan that would cobble together blacks, women, liberals, labor and gay people — coalition building at its best. Few Democrats back then realized that Maynard Jackson's coalition model building would still be in use today — with gay Georgians working with and talking to black elected officials — both at City Hall and in the Georgia General Assembly.

THE STONEWALL RIOTS TOOK PLACE in New York City four years before Maynard Jackson's election. The ramifications of that protest were not fully felt or appreciated in Atlanta in 1973.

Today's leaders in gay politics in Atlanta weren't even adults yet. Council President Cathy Woolard was only 16 years old, Council member Anne Fauver was 32, a stockbroker and not yet bitten by the political bug, and Allen Thornell, the Georgia Equality directors, was only 2 years old.

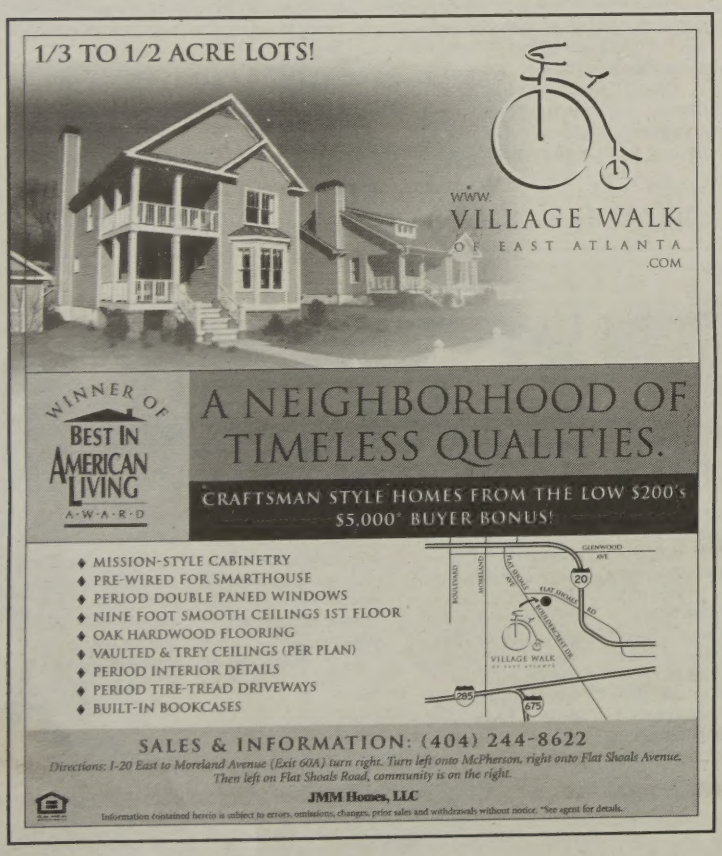
So it is through telling our history that we come to know how gay Atlanta came to be a political force in this city.

In the early days, Maynard Jackson was forceful and honest with us. He told gay leaders like Joan Garner, "You don't count because you are not organized." As a community, we heard him loud and clear. Despite our disorganization, Mayor Jackson was willing to work with the GLBT community and offer us a seat at the political roundtable.

Today, in large part because of Maynard Jackson's vision of minority participation in government and the political process, our active participation is broadly accepted by the city's body politic.

As the first mayoral candidate to actively and openly court gay, lesbian and transgendered votes in Atlanta, Maynard was setting the stage for Atlanta to become "a city for everybody."

Gary Cox is Atlanta's gay deputy chief operating officer and can be reached at **gcox@atlantaga.gov**.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viewpoint DONNA NARDUCCI

Pride is for all sorts of '**tethered people**,' from a child harnessed to her doting daddies to a '**slave**' leashed to his leather daddy.

One Pride for many

THE CONCEPT OF "BRANDING" HAS been a hot topic in recent years. You know — everything and everyone from toilet paper to pop psychologists are expected to present well-crafted, slick images that fit nicely in tight little sound-bite packages.

On the eve of our Atlanta Pride celebration, it strikes me that branding mania will never work for us. You see, while Pride committees certainly have to be effective communicators, events like Atlanta Pride defy simple labels. Thank goodness.

Depending on whether you're a butch mama or a daddy's boy or a straight-but-not-narrow supporter, Pride likely means different things to you: Mardi Gras, independence day, or a sexual freedom fest. Perhaps it's a call to political action, a chance to find out who wants to do business with you, or just another day in the park (albeit larger and louder and more colorful).

Of course, Pride was originally a protest, demanding equality and refusing to conform. The drag queens and kings, and the gay men who participated in the Stonewall Riots were celebrating their uniqueness and their wholeness and their "truths" simply by being out in the streets — as themselves.

THE OTHER DAY I CAUGHT MYSELF thinking, "Wow, wouldn't they be amazed at how far we have come?" Then I realized I might not be giving those pioneers enough credit: Surely some of them must have imagined that we would eventually get at least some of the legal rights they'd demanded, that we would become a political force, that we would become an economic force.

In their dream of the future, did they envision a community celebration that would include all sorts of "tethered people" — where a child harnessed to her doting daddies would encounter a "slave" leashed to his leather daddy?

Could they imagine a world so close to acceptance that gay and lesbian couples (a most non-traditional relationship) would dare to demand to be included in the most traditional expressions of society?

Today, we seek out the ultimate freedom: that of choice. At its core, this is what Pride represents for an ever-diverse community. If nothing else, what we've been fighting for is the freedom of thought and spirit that allows us to make Pride whatever it needs to be for us individually.

Some people think Pride is too political; they don't want to hear from elected officials or leaders telling us to lobby our legislators. Others say Pride has become a party, and they ask where the protests are. Still others don't like the "commercialism" of modern Pride celebrations.

After a decade of involvement in Atlanta Pride, I appreciate that politicians want to be with us during Pride. I am proud there are so many throat-lump-causing acts of compassion and expression during Pride, from remembrances of those we have lost (be it to breast cancer or AIDS or foreign wars) to public commitments among the partners who may not have felt the freedom to be quite so out before.

AND YES, I AM THANKFUL FOR THE corporate checks and pro bono services, despite the "hits" Pride organizers have taken in recent years. Detractors clamor for a free Pride: free of sponsorships, free of admission — and yet still full of high-end entertainment. How this should be paid for, no one seems able to articulate.

Sponsors invest in our community through Pride, which allows us to make non-profits booths available at lower rates, and allows sponsoring companies to state publicly that the norm in business is to be inclusive.

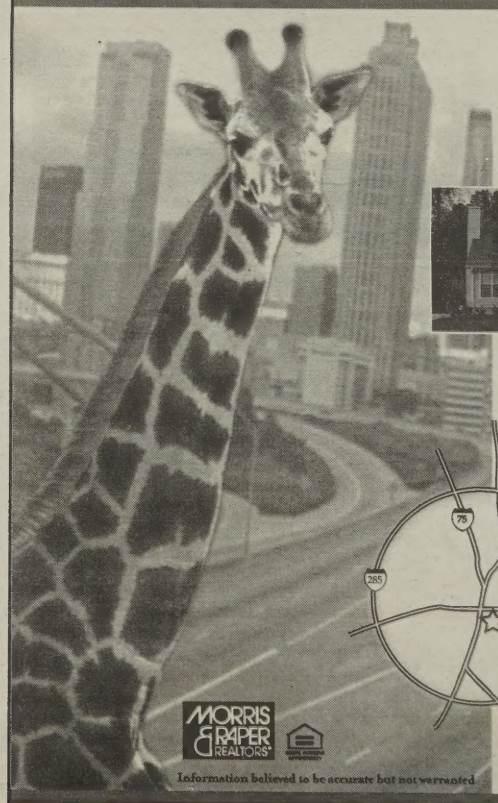
Their leadership encourages their employees and discourages those who would silence us. Lending their voice to ours, they join in calling for fairness in corporate policies as well as in legislation. Together, we are heard from union halls to the halls of Congress. We benefit far more as individuals and as a community than any company sponsor could from product sales.

Those at Stonewall took a huge risk. Their bravery and boldness allowed our freedom movement to evolve to the point that folks are actually sponsoring our self-expression — instead of beating and jailing us!

At the end of the day, Pride is the collective expression of an ideology that says "no matter who I am, I have the right to be — and the right to be free."

Freedom to be: That's our brand for this year. But feel free to wear your own label (or not!) — during Pride and throughout the year.

Donna Narducci is the executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee and can be reached at **donna@atlantapride.org**.



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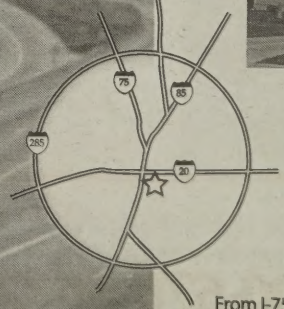

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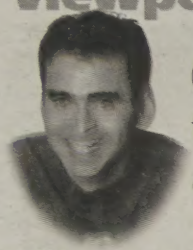

Canadian gays will so improve upon marriage, think **air! light! color!** that hapless heteros are likely to be victims of our gentrification.

Blame Canada for wed woes

THEY SAY THAT CANADIANS ARE simply unarmed Americans with health care. But the truth is they're much more progressive than we are. Too much so.

In fact, Ontario's decision to allow gay marriage is the kind of ill-informed thinking only a nine-month winter could produce.

Using an urban gentrification model to renovating marriage makes one thing clear: Allowing all gay people to marry is a grave injustice to heterosexuals.

Urban gentrification tends to displace retirees, households with fixed incomes and families who simply can't afford the rising rents and property taxes.

The same thing will happen with marriage gentrification. There will be heterosexual victims: Couples who have fixed intellectual incomes (they won't be able to afford the rising level of thinking), families who don't respect diversity and couples who buckle at the difficulty of propping up loveless marriages in the face of loving ones.

Ontario officials don't seem to be concerned with displaced straight couples. I haven't heard one government official ask, "Where will these people go once gays womp up the institution of marriage?" A cheaper part of town, no doubt.

THAT'S WHY I'M PROPOSING THAT Ontario officials back down from their noble but misguided effort to attain full equality under the law.

Besides, Canada has never done anything big or important. Why start now? They're probably just trying to get even with us for that old "Saturday Night Live" joke ("Is he gay or just Canadian?").

Here's what Canadians need to do:

Create a government incentive program that slowly introduces gay marriage while softening the blow to straight couples that'll be uprooted by the beautification process.

Urban renewal starts block by block. You wouldn't bulldoze an entire city, right? Where would everyone go? Ontario should identify 20 marriage-distressed communities and make only those gay residents eligible for marriage.

These newly married gay couples would also receive federal grants and tax-exempt bonds to finance sweeping revitalization and marriage-creation programs. This would have a dramatic effect in marriage-poor areas, which tend to have an astronomical number of divorcees, unwed mothers and dateless gay men.

Part of the program would also involve a set-aside for the covenant-challenged: the couples who can't or won't stay in an institution where love and commitment are the only criteria for residence.

If Canada did it this way, then for once America would be copycatting its neighbor instead of the other way around.

Across America, low-marriage neighborhoods could be reclaimed by identifying them as Marriage Gentrification Zones. Armed with engineering studies, architectural plans and full-length make-up mirrors, we could actually end up rehabilitating what the thrice-married, abortion-paying, DOMA-voting congressmen think we'll destroy.

URBAN AND MARRIAGE GENTRIFICATION share the same goals: safe, well-lit streets (though I must say the current lighting may be too harsh for the gay sensibility), more constructive behavior (marrying out of love, not out of expectation), preservation of beauty (fighting for urban character rather than suburban sprawl) and a culture of service to others (children to some, three-ways to others).

With my plan, Ontario can ease gays into the institution of marriage while providing sanctuary for straight couples who'll be displaced by the gentrification.

I guess the real question is whether gays are talented and creative enough to reverse the blight and moral decay that straight people have brought to marriage. Well, we're not exactly strangers to the blight and moral decay thing.

Besides, who better to do it than us? You don't want a tract-housing specialist. You want somebody who's going to do with air, light and color what Madonna did with tits, clothes and dyes.

There's no question that gay couples will revitalize marriage. With the current divorce rate at 51 percent, anything would be an improvement.

If the government of Ontario will take things slow, they won't just provide equal rights for gays, they'll also end up fixing a dilapidated institution, increase the property value and make it a place everyone wants to live in.

Editor's note: A production error caused only a portion of this column to appear in the June 20 Southern Voice.

Michael Alvear is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon" and can be reached at **michael@menrpigs.cc**.

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The U.S. Supreme Court will decide Lambda Legal's case which will directly affect the rights and lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people for years to come as it decides whether or not to uphold Texas's "Homosexual Conduct Law," outlawing sex between couples of the same gender. Courts and legislators around the nation have used laws like this as the excuse to deny us a whole host of rights, making whether or not the court upholds the Texas law critical to our civil liberties.

ALL who support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered people's freedom are asked to join either . . .

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on the evening* of the Supreme Court's decision

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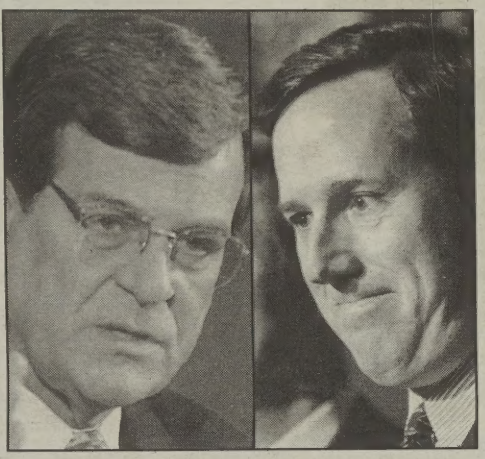
Event hosted by Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office

Info: Asha Leong, Lambda Legal, 404.897.1880, Aleong@LambdaLegal.org

* We do not know the date, although it almost definitely will be announced in the morning on a Monday in June. Listen to the news each morning, and please attend this event the evening of the Court's announcement

on the record



"In America in 2003, you can't say bad things about African Americans, but you can still say bad things about gays. That's where we are."

*Republican strategist Rich Galen, on the relatively calm reaction to the comparison of gay sex to bestiality by Republican Sen. **Rick Santorum** (Pa.) (immediate left), with the firestorm over former GOP leader **Trent Lott's** wistful view of Strom Thurmond's failed segregationist bid for the presidency (London Guardian, June 16)*

"This is gay Mardi Gras; it's a day for us to be who we are. It's a party, but it's also a meaningful celebration, and for some people, it's the only time all year that they can be who they are.

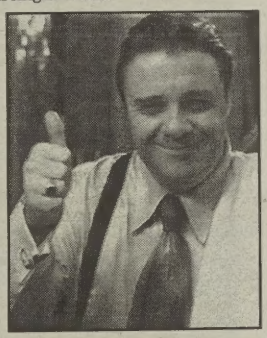
Jean Genasci, a member of the Albuquerque, N.M. chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), on the city's Gay Pride festival (Associated Press, June 15)

"[The Smith College policy is] political correctness carried amok. I believe that we're going to see a coming generation that will curse the ground that was plowed with political correctness."

Rev. Lou Sheldon, of the Traditional Values Coalition, on a vote by Smith College students to replace the pronouns "she" and "her" in the student government constitution with "the student" as a way to welcome transgendered students into the women-only school. (Associated Press, June 16)

"If there was a show about attractive gay women who happened to not have their clothes on occasionally, do you think some straight men might watch?"

Showtime chair and CEO Matthew Blank, on the audience for "Queer As Folk," which includes 50 percent women, most of whom are assumed to be heterosexual (Newsweek, June 23)



"Les always calls me in the middle of the night and says, 'Your show is so special, it's like a Fabergé egg. I can't bear to show it to anyone yet. I just want to look at it over and over and over.' And he told me he was changing the title to 'My Big Fat Greek Gay Congressman.' And we'll be premiering after 'CSI: Athens,' so be sure and look for that."

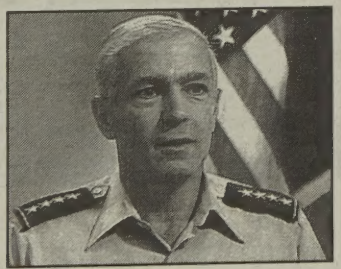
*Gay actor **Nathan Lane**, reacting sarcastically to the decision by CBS president Leslie Moonves to delay by six months the premiere of Lane's new series, "Charlie Lawrence" (Cleveland Plain-Dealer, June 14)*

"Disgusting. I'm ashamed to be a London Free Press reader, I'm ashamed to be an Ontarian. I'm ashamed to be Canadian."

A reader angry over a front-page photo of two men kissing, illustrating a story on the historic court ruling in Ontario opening up marriage to same-sex couples (London Free Press, London Ontario, June 14)

"I would like to congratulate you and commend you. I'm 77 years old and I don't understand it, but I accept it."

Another reader reacting to the same front-page photograph and coverage (London Free Press, London Ontario, June 14)



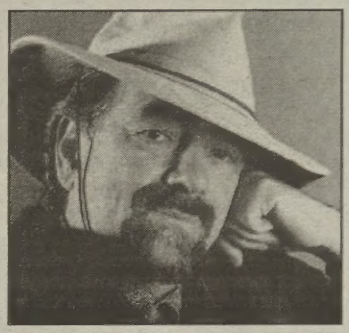
"The British have a system that ... they call it — 'Don't ask, don't misbehave.' I think the leaders in the [United States] Armed Forces will look at that some day."

*General **Wesley Clark**, former NATO supreme allied commander, and potential Democratic presidential candidate, on the current American policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on gays in the military; asked by NBC's Tim Russert if he would look at changing the policy, Clark answered, "Absolutely." (NBC's "Meet the Press," June 15)*

Savage sues 'rats'

Action against critics is 'harassing' and 'meaningless,' attorney says

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY



Talk Radio Network, which syndicates controversial radio personality **Michael Savage**, filed suit against three anti-Savage Web sites for 'unlawfully' interfering with TRN's business relations. (Photo by Russ Weiner)

MSNBC AND RADIO TALK SHOW host Michael Savage made good on his promise to exact retribution against critics attempting to cut off his advertising dollars by filing a $1.2 million lawsuit.

The lawsuit came three months after a threat he made on his Feb. 27 radio show addressed to the "rats" that boycott his advertisers.

"If you continue this, we're going to go after your funding sources," Savage said. "And we will do everything we can within the legal realm to cut off that funding."

In May, Talk Radio Network, the Oregon-based company that syndicates Savage's radio program, filed a lawsuit in Illinois against three Web sites — savagestupidity.com, takebackthemedia.com and michaelsavagesucks.com — that use Savage's own words from his radio show against him.

On his program, Savage has said the U.S. "is being taken over by the freaks, the cripples, the perverts and the mental defectives," that gays and lesbians are "perverts" and that "the gay and lesbian mafia wants our children."

TRN asked the Northern District Court of Illinois for $1.2 million in compensatory damages, plus any punitive damages proven at trial.

THE SUIT ACCUSES THE WEB SITES of distributing "false and malicious e-mails" and of stealing broadcasts of Savage's show to "unlawfully" disrupt TRN's business relationship with advertiser Culligan International Company of Northbrook, Ill., according to a summons served to Gunilla Leavitt, a defendant in the case.

Leavitt and her husband Thomas run the California-based Web site savagestupidity.com, and are named as defendants in the case.

The other defendants are Julie Sigwart, who co-founded the California-based media watchdog group Take Back the Media (takebackthemedia.com), and a "John Doe," believed to reside in Arizona, who represents the Coalition for Human Decency and operates michaelsavagesucks.com.

Doe has not yet been served his summons, but it was an e-mail sent by the Coalition for Human Decency that provoked Culligan to stop advertising with TRN, Doe told Southern Voice in an e-mail.

The March 1 e-mail to Culligan contained several Savage quotes and links to Savage sound bites to inform the company of a national boycott of all Savage's advertisers.

One Savage quote sent to Culligan aired on the first day of his national radio syndication, June 13, 2002: "I'm more powerful than you are, you hateful little nothings. You represent nothing but the perverts that you hang around with."

Culligan discontinued advertising with TRN's Savage show a week after receiving the e-mail.

PUBLIC CITIZEN, A NATIONAL non-profit consumer advocacy organization, took the Leavitts' case and filed a motion to dismiss because they live in California and not Illinois. The suit is "harassing" and "meaningless," said Paul Levy, lead counsel on the case.

"You can't sue someone just because you have a Web site that can be downloaded where you want to sue," Levy said.

But TRN professes to advocate free speech.

"The rights of people to speak their minds is something we support 100 percent," said Mike Lofrano, chief operating officer of TRN.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which led a national protest against Savage's Saturday MSNBC show, argues there are flaws in Lofrano's logic.

"It is unfortunate when folks who advocate free speech on the airwaves try to stop someone else's right to free speech in the courts," said John Sonego, GLAAD director of communications.

TRN did not file suit against GLAAD because GLAAD launched its MSNBC protest and advertiser awareness campaign in response to the TV show, not the radio show, Lofrano said.

ACTION! INFO

Talk Radio Network
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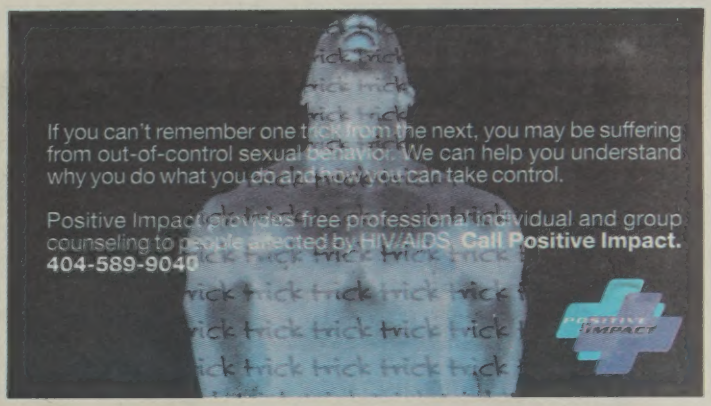
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HOLY COW: Gay artists among designers of city-wide CowParade that kicks off this week. **Page 69**

SOBER UP: Gay author **Augusten Burroughs** says 'Dry,' his irreverent recovery memoir, was healing. **Page 55**

Model citizen

Black lesbian isn't 'America's Next Top Model,' but she's still out and proud

By FAREN D'ABELL

EBONY HAITH PROBABLY IS NOT THE FIRST black lesbian model, but she may be the first to come out on national television.

Haith, one of the 10 finalists on UPN's reality show "America's Next Top Model," says executive producer and supermodel Tyra Banks brought together a diverse group of contestants to compete for a modeling contract and other high-value prizes.

Since a "top model" has to be more than just a pretty face, they learn something new each week. One week, gay consultant J. Alexander — a thick black man in a dress and heels — teaches the girls how to walk down a runway. Another week, they take acting classes with Alice Spivak who helped Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer.

After their lessons, the models are judged on how well they applied their lessons. A panel of celebrity model judges eliminates one model each week. Imagine "The Waltons" meet "The Jeffersons" meet "Survivor."

Robin Manning — a plus-sized model whose personal motto is "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me" — became the mother figure to the group as they were narrowed from 20 women to 10. But that mother quickly became disapproving of several women in the house, Haith says.

Elyse Sewell, the Wynona Ryder look-alike, is an atheist, and Haith is a lesbian, so neither participates in the bible study classes held by Manning.

The outspoken Haith says she was not going to let Manning bring negativity into the house.

"The first thing I told her was 'I was born 7-7-78, honey. I'm all lucky. Sevens are the gates to heaven, now you look at me and tell me I'm not a child of God,'" Haith says. "After that, I didn't hear a word from her."

FROM THE BEGINNING, HAITH SAYS SHE WAS there to win. She was not in the house to make friends.

The first argument occurred when the girls arrived at the house and were treated with new clothes of different sizes. Haith says the logical way to divide the clothes would be to see what looks best on each model.

But mother Manning prevailed, causing a clothing raffle of sorts to determine which model received which outfit — regardless of size.

In an early episode, Haith lost a competition to win a night partying with recording artist Wyclef Jean. When "Tyra Mail" — little notes from Banks telling the contestants what to expect the next day — came while the four winners were out partying, Haith wanted to hide the mail from them.

But, there's more to every story, she says.

"It's an eight-hour show. We were together for over a month," she says. "A lot of the times, my interactions with the girls were things that were built up. If I got frustrated at them, these are things that we went through in and out all day."

The almost 25-year-old model from the Bronx says she's not as mean as TV viewers might think.

"Why was I portrayed this way?" Haith asks. "Sometimes African American women — especially in my style — have a tendency to be portrayed [as] angry or very forceful."

HAITH IS NOT THE TYPICAL SUPER MODEL. Her current style is bald and a bit rough around the edges. Even people who know her well may not always recognize her because her style, which has included blonde hair, is constantly changing, she says.

Please see **TOP MODEL** on **Page 79**

Ebony Haith made the top 10 on UPN's 'America's Next Top Model,' and she never flinched about being an out lesbian on the show.

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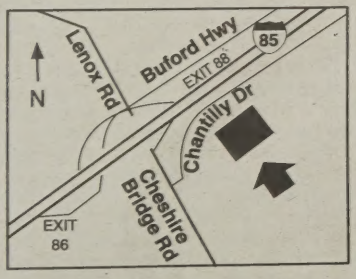

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Memoir tackles 12-step recovery

Author's wit, irreverence serve him well in journal excerpts

By KEVIN RIORDAN

THERE ARE MANY RECOVERY MEMoirs, but "Dry" by gay author Augusten Burroughs, who wrote "Running With Scissors," is receiving attention unlike the others because it's actually lightheartED and funny.

"It's a totally saturated market, but every recovery book I've seen has been very serious and in-your-face," Burroughs says. "It's funny to get sober — it's horrible and it's stressful, but it's also very funny."

The 37-year-old Burroughs began writing what became "Dry" in 1995. More than one too many Ketel One martinis landed him in trouble at the Manhattan ad agency where he was earlier a star, and the young hotshot found himself on a plane to Minnesota.

He imagined the gay rehab where he was headed as an architecturally distinguished retreat, a place of tasteful rejuvenation for sophisticated bodies and souls. Instead, Burroughs found an "anti-Royalton" of laundered-to-death sheets, plaid furniture and Jello for dessert.

But he also got a dose of no-nonsense, 12-step treatment that offered escape from the blurry nights of booze, crack, sloppy sex and bedwetting that came to define his existence.

"Dry" recounts this, and more, with the merrily mordant wit and take-it-or-leave-it honesty that made "Running With Scissors" so oddly wonderful.

"The new book is sort of the greatest hits of the 1,800-page journal I wrote after I got out of rehab," Burroughs says.

"Dry" offers a skewed, shrewd and insightful take on everything from the surreal atmosphere of early recovery — with its elations, drudgeries and romantic obsessions — to the go-go glamour of gay Manhattan.

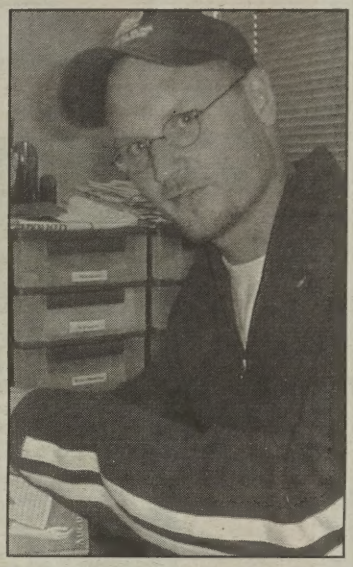
"We always had to have dinner at the 'it' restaurant," Burroughs writes. "We always drank the 'it' drink. We went to clubs where extremely handsome people danced, and we danced with each other. We had sex, we went home to our separate apartments and then we had phone sex."

THE AUTHOR, WHOSE "RUNNING With Scissors" is about growing up gay in two spectacularly dysfunctional households, says he always wanted to be a writer — or a celebrity — and as a child wrote regularly in notebooks or spoke into a "little blue tape recorder," he says.

But getting sober made a writing career possible, he says.

"Suddenly you're face-to-face with 24 hours a day," Burroughs says. "How do you fill those hours? So I kind of reverted to my childhood and started writing."

The bulk of "Dry" was finished before



Gay author **Augusten Burroughs** pokes fun at his own recovery from alcoholism in 'Dry.'

Burroughs turned his attention to "Running With Scissors," which made his literary reputation and made him something of a celebrity besides. It offered deliciously malicious depictions of Burroughs' preposterously self-absorbed parents.

But "Running With Scissors" is downright diplomatic when it comes to his parents compared to "Dry."

The new book's account of the author's visits to his demanding and disabled mother — who always wants him to perform trivial chores — makes for tough but admirably truthful reading.

"As if she needed me to do these things, me specifically," he writes. "As if she had been saving them up for me to do. Like they were gifts. Love. Dead birds she had caught and killed with claws, saved while I was away and dropped, all together, in a mound on my doorstep for me to appreciate."

MOST OF "DRY" IS NOWHERE NEAR as grim, but the author acknowledges feeling "fury" when the process of writing and recovery finally enabled him to "open the door to my feelings about my family," he says.

He has since come to feel some compassion for his mother ("the woman was ill"), but they don't speak.

"We don't have a relationship," he says.

Burroughs did send to his mother for safekeeping a certain piece of gold jewelry, in the shape of a pig head, that figures prominently in "Dry." And when he emailed her, asking for it back, she complied.

The jewelry was a gift from Burroughs' best friend "Pighead," who as "Dry" opens is perhaps the sole sane person in the author's life. Pighead also is struggling with late-stage AIDS, a subject that, inexplicably, seems to have gone AWOL from gay lit these days.

"As if it's cured," Burroughs says. "The reality couldn't be further from the truth."

The relationship between Burroughs and Pighead, with its mix of desire, dishiness and ferocious loyalty, is one of those quintessential gay male friendships, the sort of bond that can anchor a life or even a lifetime. It also provides "Dry" with its saddest moments.

"He was a voice of reason, a voice I wasn't able to hear for a long time," says Burroughs, who was drinking again when Pighead died and failed to be, in his word, "present" in the way he would have been in saner circumstances.

"I regret that the most," Burroughs says. "That funny little boy in 'Running With Scissors' did a horrible, horrible thing. I didn't behave as lovingly and supportively as I should have."

Burroughs says he is especially proud that he can now be fully "present" in his relationships, including with Dennis Pilsits, his partner of four years.

He's also been able to let go of regret.

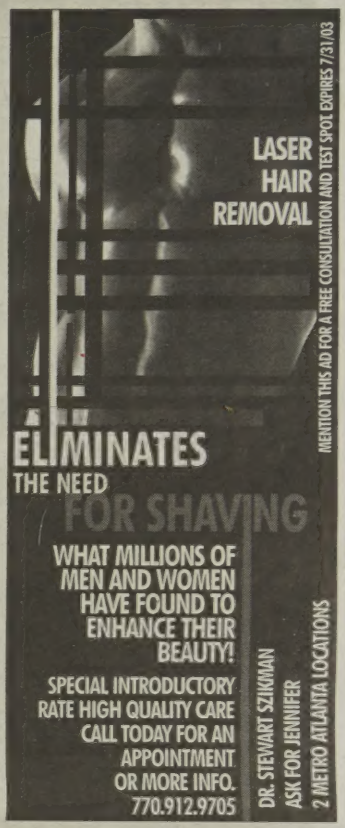
Along with professional productivity — his next book, "Magical Thinking: True Stories," is ready for publication — self-forgiveness is one of the chief benefits of sobriety.

Turns out that, rather than the arduous, pious life of self-deprivation imagined by some, recovery "is easier and better in every way," Burroughs says.

"I'm pleasure-seeking and lazy," he says. "If it weren't easier and better to be sober, I wouldn't be able to do it."

MORE INFO

'Dry'
By Augusten Burroughs
St. Martin's Press
320 pages, $24.95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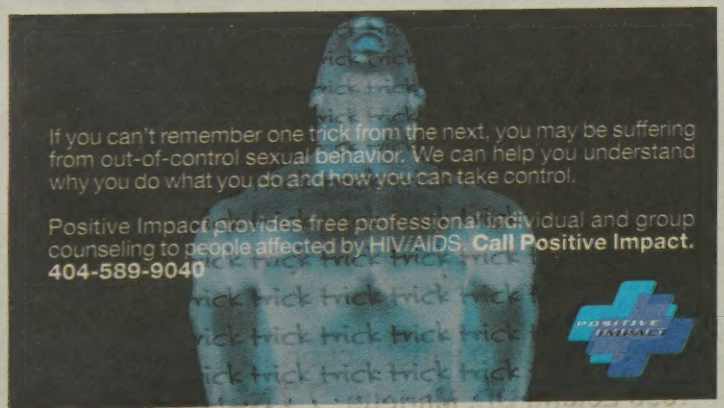
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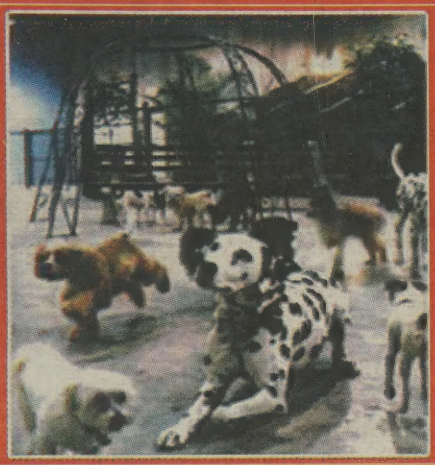

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film STEVE WARREN

Director's heart's in right place, but leads in 'The Trip' have **no chemistry**; porn case documentary fares better.

Queens of the road

GAY OR STRAIGHT, A ROMANCE requires chemistry between its leads. "The Trip" stars two actors, Larry Sullivan and Steve Braun, who may be fine individually — especially Braun — but mix like oil and water.

In 1973, Tommy (Braun) is a radical hippie queer, and Alan (Sullivan) is a conservative Republican with a ditzy girlfriend. Seeking source material for his book, Alan invites Tommy to dinner. Romance develops, and they live together for four years.

By then, Alan's politics shifted to the left as the country's swing to the right. As Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade goes nationwide, a gay-bashing book Alan wrote from the closet is finally published, but anonymously. Tommy leaves Alan when he's exposed as the author.

With the '80s comes "Gay Cancer," which becomes AIDS. In 1984, Tommy lives in Mexico but is getting ready to go to his parents' home in Texas to die.

Thankfully, "The Trip" doesn't turn into a disease-of-the-week movie with a long death-watch. Unfortunately, what does happen — much of it "Thelma & Louise"-inspired action-comedy — doesn't fare much better.

Jill St. John, as Alan's mother, gives the film's best performance. Her character behaves with total inappropriateness in what's supposed to be a broadly comic sequence.

The script's anachronisms include guys calling each other "dude" instead of "man" in 1973 and a joke the same year about not inhaling "if you're worried about a political career."

The last act of "The Trip," with an ending that rips off an Oscar-winning queer classic of the late '60s, is the only part that's really entertaining. That writer-director Miles Swain has his heart in the right place is not enough to make this "Trip" much worth taking.

TRIAL BY MEDIA IS AS HALLOWED A tradition as any guaranteed by our Bill of Rights. That's why Eric Rudolph will never get a fair trial from an unbiased jury of his peers. So it is with "Capturing the Friedmans."

The Friedmans were the Eric Rudolph of the late '80s, at least on Long Island. In an East Coast version of the McMartin trial, 56-year-old Arnold Friedman and his 18-year-old son Jesse were accused of molesting several boys aged eight to 11 who came to their home for computer classes.

Andrew Jarecki's amazing documentary takes you inside their dysfunctional family and talks to police, lawyers and many who never got to tell their stories in court. At the end, you're left wondering about some aspects of the "truth."

Steve Braun (left) and **Larry Sullivan** embark on a decade-long love affair in 'The Trip.'

Arnold first attracted attention when Customs confiscated a piece of child pornography addressed to him from the Netherlands. A routine search of his house turned up a list of his computer students, who were then routinely questioned.

FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T FOLLOW THE case, the film generates considerable suspense as it gradually reveals what happened at the time. Reporter Debbie Nathan, who covered several trials involving multiple molestation charges, explains the psychology behind the mass hysteria that can develop in an affected community.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the film is home video footage. Oldest son David, we're told, "just started recording the family falling apart." Middle brother Seth, seen in old home movies and videos, refused to have anything to do with this film.

You may wonder, as I did, whether your family could endure this kind of scrutiny and come away looking any more "normal" than the Friedmans.

MORE INFO

'The Trip'
Opens June 27
✪ 1/2
Queer Quotient: Gay history and a gay love story were combined far better in Nigel Finch's "Stonewall."
Lefont Plaza
1049 Ponce De Leon Ave.
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'Capturing the Friedmans'
Opens June 27
✪✪✪
Queer Quotient: Certain revelations are likely to blur the distinction between homosexuality and pedophilia for less educated viewers.
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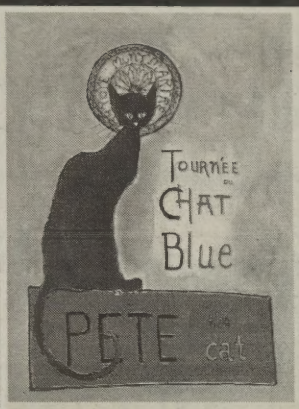

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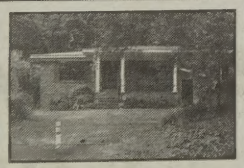

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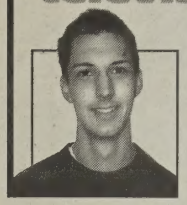

Ellen DeGeneres returns to stand-up where she belongs, but trail-blazing comedian plays it safe on HBO special.

Ellen playing it safe

IF YOU SAW ELLEN DEGENERES live when she played in Atlanta this past April, skip watching her new HBO comedy special, "Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now," on Saturday. The special is the same act she performed on tour this spring.

DeGeneres shouldn't be faulted for this. A show that is going to get so much exposure on national television needs to be tried out in front of live audiences beforehand.

But for a special called "Here and Now," not only is the material a bit old, but there is also nothing edgy about DeGeneres' act anymore.

It's neither in-your-face like Sandra Bernhard's standup material, nor politically current like Bill Maher's whiny revelations.

DeGeneres garnered national attention for being one of the first actors to come out in publicly — on national television and on the cover of Time. But since then, she gradually shied away from talking too much about politics or sharing cutting-edge material.

After breaking barriers when she came out on national television, out comedian **Ellen DeGeneres** fails to break new ground on her HBO special on Saturday, June 28. (Photo by Cliff Watts/HBO)

THE NEW SPECIAL IS VERY SIMILAR to DeGeneres' last failed sitcom, "The Ellen Show," which aired on CBS in 2001. It tried to resurrect the familiar feelings evoked by family sitcoms like "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and "The Andy Griffith Show."

Ellen's now-defunct show had its funny moments, but something was lost in the translation from Griffith and Van Dyke. Too much time passed, and the formula for those programs faded to the point that audiences just couldn't relate.

The new special would be more aptly titled "Then and Now," since most of the jokes are based on the disparity between how simple life once was and how complicated it is today.

DeGeneres jokes about the days before remote controls, how toilet paper used to have more than one ply, and how pickles used to be in a big barrel in the general store.

If a comedian like Bob Hope, who turned 100 on May 29, were to discuss such revelations in his act, it would generate chuckles. But Ellen is only 45 — not exactly a spring chicken, but also not old enough to do the "when I was your age" bits yet.

Many of her observations are quite funny and astute, but some of the jokes fall flat before reaching the finish line. Talking about how hard it is to open new CDs is more of a gag to do with friends in a bar than a bit in a standup act.

IF NONE OF THIS SOUNDS GAY-oriented, that's because it isn't.

At the beginning of the show's hour, DeGeneres says that everyone in the audience has something in common.

"You're all here, because you're gay," she teases.

It's a smart move to address the "gay issue" right off the bat. For someone who became famous for being openly gay, but who still strives to reach mainstream audiences, it's worth joking about briefly.

"That was my obligatory gay remark," she says. "If I didn't do anything gay, people would be upset. They'd say, 'She didn't do anything gay. She's not our leader! What happened to our leader?'"

She's makes a gay joke or two, but the meat and potatoes of her act is the wry, insightful, observational quips that will crack up anyone, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

DeGeneres notes in the show that the real reason everyone has gathered before her is just to "to laugh."

Watching her in action does generate laughter. Just don't expect her to radically change the face of comedy.

MORE INFO

'Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now'
June 28,10 p.m.
HBO
For video highlighting upcoming special, access www.sovo.com

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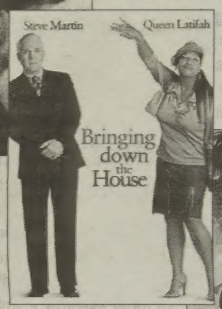
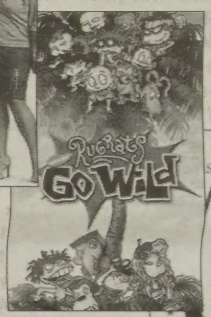


Thursday, July 3
Bringing Down the House
8:00pm



Sunday, July 6
Rugrats Go Wild
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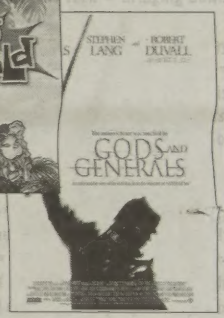

Sunday, July 6
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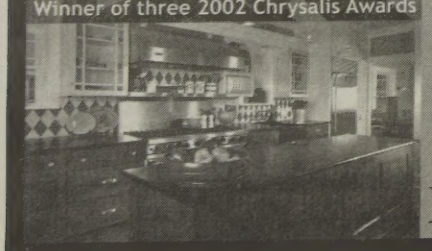

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PERRY MASON: You can catch the classic cases — in black and white no less — that made the lead character, played by gay actor Raymond Burr, a television institution. (1 hr.) Hallmark Channel at 10 a.m.

DAWSON'S CREEK: Catch the syndication of this show about a bunch of whiny high school students, including out teenager Jack. (1 hr.) TBS at 11 a.m.

ALL MY CHILDREN: This long-running serial now features Bianca, the lesbian daughter of legendary Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). (1 hr.) ABC Weekdays at 1 p.m.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: Watch the series from the beginning; the reruns are just as fun. (1 hr.) Weekdays on FX at 6 p.m.

FRIDAY JUNE 27

PARAGRAPH 175: A documentary about gay victims of the Holocaust includes interviews with gay survivors. (1 hr. 15 min.) HBO at 3:30 p.m.

EAST PALACE, WEST PALACE: When a cop picks up a man for cruising in a public park in Beijing, his interrogation takes many unsuspected and intimate turns. (1 hr. 30 min.) Sundance at 5:55 p.m.

THE WIRE: While McNulty searches for gay gangster Omar, Kima upsets her girlfriend when she leaves her desk job. (1 hr.) HBO at 10 p.m.

SATURDAY JUNE28

NOW AND THEN: Four childhood friends reunite — including lesbian comedian Rosie O'Donnell — and remember their younger days in flashbacks. (2 hrs. 15 min.) TBS at 11 a.m.

CLUELESS: An inept high-school matchmaker falls for a boy that everyone else realizes is gay. (2 hrs.) USA at 1 p.m.

BOYS ON THE SIDE: Whoopi Goldberg plays a lesbian in this female-bonding road movie. (2 hrs.) Starz! at 3:30 p.m.

ELLEN DEGENERES: HERE AND NOW: The lesbian comedian takes on modern day conveniences and annoyances in her stand-up comedy special. (1 hr.) HBO at 10 p.m.

DRAGNET: When a supermodel is murdered, a tabloid journalist — bisexual comedian Sandra Bernhard — is one of the suspects. (1 hr.) ABC at 10 p.m.

SUNDAY JUNE 29

PLAYING THE FIELD: SPORTS AND SEX IN AMERICA: A look at how issues of sexual orientation affect American athletes. (1 hr.) HBO at 11 a.m.

CAESAR: A look at the younger days of Julius Caesar (Jeremy Sisto, who played Billy on "Six Feet Under"), which may or may not include the homosexual activities historians report to be common among Roman men. (2 hr.) TNT at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

CHARLIE LAWRENCE: Charlie (Nathan Lane) tries to butch it up with his fellow Congressmen by playing basketball in their league. (30 min.) CBS at 8:30 p.m.

SEX AND THE CITY: Carrie and her new beau aren't having great sex, but Samantha and a hot waiter certainly are. (30 min.) HBO at 9 p.m.

THE WIRE: Gay stick up artist Omar continues to elude McNulty. (1 hr.) HBO at 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY JUNE 30

CAESAR: The second part of the mini-series about young Julius Caesar. (2 hrs.) TNT at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

IN COLD BLOOD: This made-for-TV documentary is an adaptation of gay author Truman Capote's famous "non-fiction novel" about a slaying in Kansas. (2 hr. 15 min.) Turner Classic Movies at 8 p.m.

SOLDIER'S GIRL: A dramatization about the relationship between pre-op transsexual Calpernia Adams and Pfc. Barry Winchell, who was killed by homophobic fellow military officers. (1 hr. 55 min.) Showtime at 11 p.m.

TUESDAY JULY 1

LADY KILLER: Gay activist Judith Light stars as a woman who is the victim of a disturbed ladies' man. (2 hr.) Lifetime at 2 p.m.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: A night out on the town with a new love interest leaves Willow a changed woman, internally and externally. (1 hr.) UPN at 8 p.m.

PANDEMIC: FACING AIDS: The third episode of the series looks at an HIV-positive couple raising a baby in Russia. (1 hr.) HBO2 at 8 p.m.

REAL WORLD: The long-running reality show goes international when it brings the "seven strangers" to Paris, including gay roommate Simon. Four episodes. (2 hrs.) MTV at 8:30 p.m.

Troy Garity plays real-life slain soldier Barry Winchell, with **Lee Pace** as his transgendered girlfriend in 'Soldier's Girl,' airing June 30 at 11 p.m. on Showtime.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT: A brilliant collage of the words and stories of citizens from Laramie and how they dealt with Matthew Shepard's death. (1 hr. 30 min.) HBO2 at 10:30 p.m.

THE LION IN WINTER: In his 1968 film debut, Anthony Hopkins plays Richard the Lion-Heart, the prince whose affair with King Philip of France is revealed. (2 hrs. 30 min.) Turner Classic Movies at 1 a.m.

WEDNESDAY JULY 2

THE SCORE: Marlon Brando said that his role in this slow-moving caper film is as a gay mafioso, but there is little evidence of that in the film. (2 hr. 5 min.) The Movie Channel at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.

JFK: Oliver Stone's masterpiece of conspiracy theories behind the Kennedy assassination leads to three gay suspects, played by Tommy Lee Jones, Joe Pesci, and Kevin Bacon. (3 hrs. 30 min.) Cinemax at 11:05 a.m.

BOUND: Steamy thriller starring Jennifer Tilly as Violet, a mobster's wife who engages Corky (Gina Gershon), an ex-con, as a lover and a partner in crime. Together, the two plot to swindle the Mob out of $2 million. (2 hrs.) FX at noon

SEX AND THE CITY: See Sun. at 9 p.m. listing. (1 hr.) HBO at 9 p.m.

AGAINST THEIR WILL: WOMEN IN PRISON: The second crazy Judith Light movie of the week shows the gay activist as a felon who fights for inmate's rights after she is treated badly in prison. (2 hrs.) Lifetime at 9 p.m.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: The most Hitchcockian of the Bond movies features Lotte Lenya as the tough lesbian villain Rosa Klebb, the KGB agent with a knife in her shoe. (2 hrs. 30 min.) TNN at 9 p.m.

CAESAR: No, it's not about the hunky one-named porn star, it's about Julius Caesar. Catch the whole mini-series at once. (4 hrs.) TNT at 10 p.m.

THURSDAY JULY 3

TODAY: The morning show's weekly style segment is hosted by flamboyant correspondent Steven Cojocaru, who doesn't refute that he's gay. (3 hrs.) NBC at 7 a.m.

THE LOVE LETTER: An anonymous love letter plays havok with the hearts of the citizens of a New England town, including Ellen DeGeneres. (2 hrs.) ABC at 8 p.m.

AMAZING RACE: Between punching out models and yelling at each other, gay couple Chip and Reichen are gonna have a long race. (1 hr.) CBS at 8 p.m.

WILL & GRACE: Will's boss (Gene Wilder) is in love with Karen.(30 min.) NBC at 9 p.m.

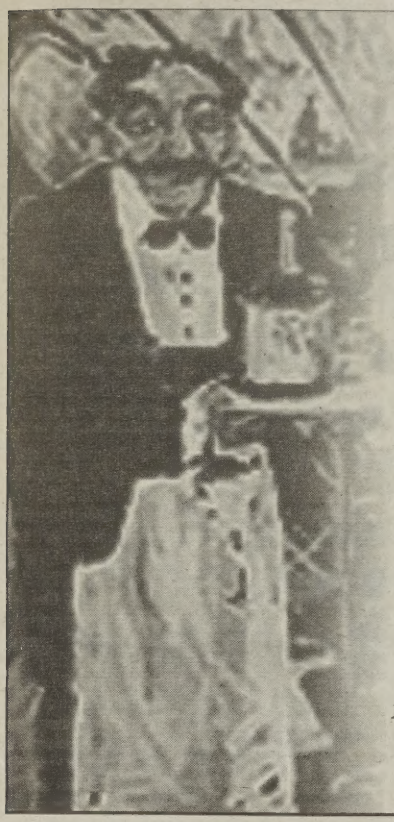
FRIDAY JULY 4

WHAT MAKES A FAMILY: Brooke Shields gives a strong performance as a lesbian forced to fight for custody of her child after her partner dies. (2 hrs.) Lifetime at 1 p.m.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS: Jack Nicholson won an Oscar for his role as Melvin, a bigot with a gay neighbor, played by Greg Kinnear. (3 hrs.) TNT at 1 p.m.

HUDSON HAWK: Though the movie was panned by critics, bisexual comedian Sandra Bernhard saves this action movie farce with her brilliant performance as psychotically funny billionaire villain Minerva Mayflower. (2 hrs.) Comedy Central at 6 p.m.

SOUTH PARK: BIGGER, LONGER, AND UNCUT: This hysterically foul-mouthed animated musical features Satan and Saddam Hussein as lovers, and a musical number from Big Gay Al. (2 hrs.)Comedy Central at 1 a.m.



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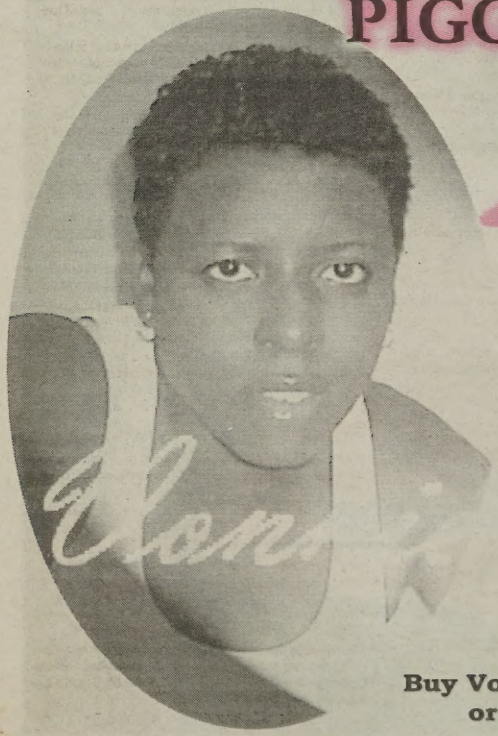

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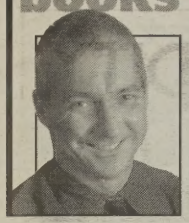


'The Queen of Harlem' novelist is not his own title character, and being out in interviews serves a **larger purpose.**

Black gay author 'represents'

YES, BRIAN KEITH JACKSON IS GAY and lives in arguably the most famous black neighborhood in the country.

And yes, his latest novel is titled "The Queen of Harlem."

But this vivid and insightful book, which has been likened to an African-American "Breakfast at Tiffany's," is not an autobiography in fictional drag.

"I am not the Queen of Harlem," the 35-year-old author says recently from his home in the storied neighborhood where his third novel is set.

"I wanted to create a book about identity, and perception," Jackson says. "There's no better city in the world to do that than New York, and I've had a fascination with Harlem for a long time. I wanted to explore what Harlem means to people."

Jackson moved to Harlem's West Side two years ago, and like his narrator, Mason Randolph, the author — who was born in New Orleans — grew up in a well-off Southern family.

BUT MASON, WHO TAKES THE NAME Malik and disguises his upscale origins when he moves uptown, is thoroughly heterosexual. He's smitten with the glamorous Carmen — the "queen" of the title — and with Kyra, a wealthy Columbia University student.

Jackson says writing characters "is not always fun for me."

But Carmen — a wise and witty diva whose social network seems to include every bold-faced name in New York's gossip columns — was "very fun" to write, he says.

"Everybody has a little Carmen in them," Jackson says. "I honestly believe that. She's grand ... but she's aware."

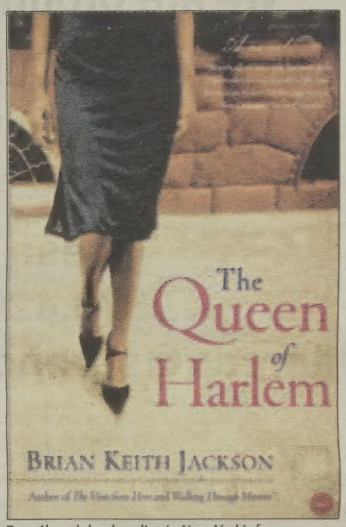
Like Mason/Malik, Carmen recreates herself in a neighborhood not only historically famous for its artists, musicians and writers, but more recently renowned for a surge in the value of its residential and commercial real estate.

Hamstrung for decades by the neglect, decay and drugs that afflict many city neighborhoods, Harlem is hip again.

Jackson wanted to explore what it means to be a young black man in a place where so much is changing — and not always in a positive direction, he says.

With its contrasting scenes of blue-collar and upper crust black life, "The Queen of Harlem" is more concerned with class than race or sexual orientation.

JACKSON WAS A CONTRIBUTOR TO "Shade," a 1996 anthology of fiction by black gay men, but until recently tended to be publicly circumspect about his sexual orientation in interviews as well as in his work.



Even though he does live in New York's famous black neighborhood, gay writer Brian Keith Jackson does not refer to himself in the title of his third novel, **'The Queen of Harlem.'**

"It takes a great deal to be who you are," Jackson says, comparing Carmen's fiercely proud act of self-creation to the ongoing process of being gay in a straight world.

"I basically identify as gay," he adds. "I've never tried to hide it. It's a non-issue to me."

Besides, he's too busy: Jackson is writing a screenplay based on "The Queen of Harlem," working on a one-man play in which he will star, and getting started on a new novel.

"[The new novel] is going to be about how people have relationships based on the free minutes of their cell phones," he hints.

Jackson also admits that being out in recent interviews promotes his work and his date-ability. But it has another, larger purpose, he says.

"It's about representation," he says. "About having faces to see. If your face is in a magazine, and you're a novelist, and some kid is in a dentist's office and sees you, that kid knows it's possible.

"When I was a kid, I didn't see many black faces when I was flipping through the magazines," he adds. "I have to go out and be a face."

FOR MORE INFO

'The Queen of Harlem'
by Brian Keith Jackson
Broadway Books
256 pages, $12.95

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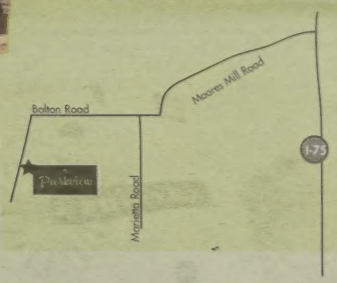

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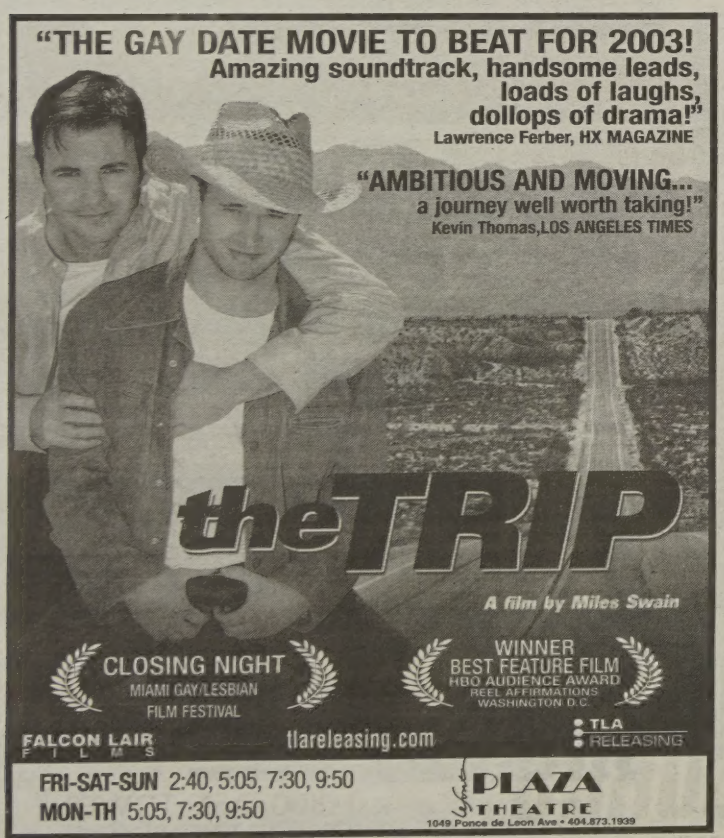

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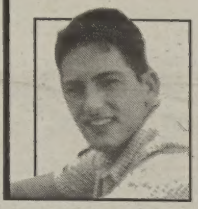


Laura Love **doesn't hold back** on latest CD that rails on George W., rest of Washington establishment.

Singer spreads tolerance

SOMETIMES, FREEDOM OF SPEECH comes at a high price. Country trio the Dixie Chicks found that out the hard way when their music was boycotted after an anti-Bush statement in London.

But that doesn't discourage lesbian folk singer Lara Love from lashing out against George Bush in her own unbridled fashion. On her latest album "Welcome to Pagan Place," she shares her outrage with the Bush administration and the political establishment.

"I feel the Bush administration has exceeded a threshold," Love, 42, told Southern Voice. "I have come to a point that I am more afraid to be quiet than to speak out. As the Bill of Rights gets dismantled by this administration, I feel obligated to talk."

Love rails on the recent Iraqi war and the administration's right-leaning viewpoint.

"I cannot stand how the government has been ... filling up the White House with religious right people who are basically running a theocracy that denounces gay and lesbians, blacks and anything that is not white, Christian, missionary position, vanilla crap," she says.

LOVE'S SPIRITED LYRICS ON "WELcome to Pagan Place" are part of her unique all-American folk music that features a blend of country folk, funk, jazz and traditional bluegrass grooves. Her African-American roots provide a unique soulful edge, which give her polemics a vibrant, upbeat quality.

Besides Bush, she also targets the entire political establishment in Washington.

"I have been really disappointed by all these career politicians in Washington, especially when it concerns gays and lesbians," she says. "Clinton already did the typical wimp out of thing when he came up with the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy."

The singer/songwriter feels that gays in America should be "alarmed" about the future.

"I feel the mood towards gays and lesbians is changing," she says. "A good example is Dick Cheney who continues to vote for anti-gay legislation even though his own daughter is gay. Also the recent statement by Sen. Santorum where he equated being gay with incest and polygamy underlines what the Republican agenda really is."

AS AN ARTIST, LOVE CAN PLAY AN important role in spreading tolerance by being out as a lesbian, she says.

"I feel obligated to share my sexuality with people, because I believe it is important to let people know that the people that live and work among them, and who they love, are all kinds of things," she says.

Singer **Laura Love** says that her anti-George W. Bush lyrics represent an opportunity for the artist to provide an alternative message to predominant conservative views. (Photo by Pamela Dore)

When love recently played Merlefest, a bluegrass country music festival in North Carolina, she got support for her anti-Bush lyrics from a largely conservative audience.

"Initially, when I started to play my anti-Bush song 'I Want You Gone,' I got a lot of boos," she says. "However, as people started to listen to the lyrics, a large majority of the people started to yell in my favor, far outweighing the boo contingent. It shows me that music has the power to educate and to accomplish change."

Love is not planning a full-scale tour in support of her CD because she prefers to focus on her family, she says.

"I am a foster mother now. My partner and I are very happy with a little baby girl," Love says. "Together, we're also building a solar, wind-generated house here in the mountains. We have called it 'Pagan Place,' so that explains the album title."

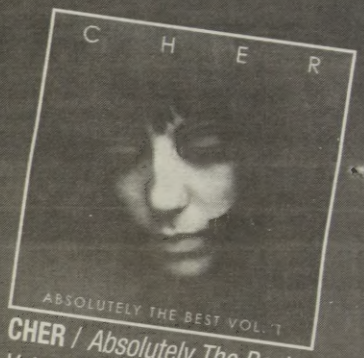
The house is a project for not only love and her partner, but their best friend who shares their life as well.

"I call us three men and a baby because we're all so butch."

MORE INFO

'Welcome to Pagan Place'
Laura Love
Koch Records, 2003
http://www.lauralove.net

EQUAL



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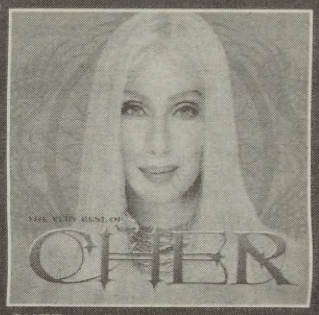

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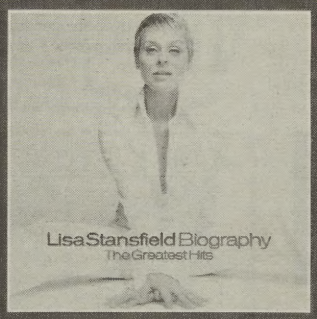

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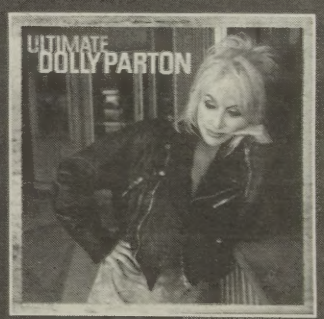

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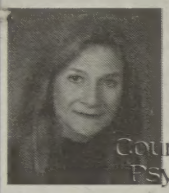

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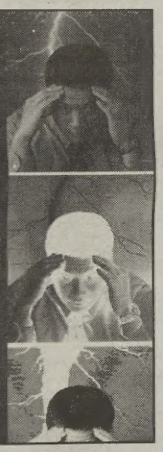

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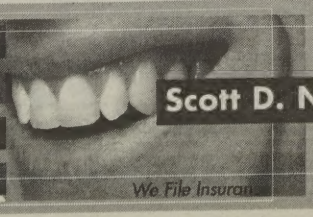

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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Former conservative publisher trades holier-than-thou image for **role as porn star** Sam Tyson.

From 'Hero' to porn star

REMEMBER **HERO MAGAZINE**? IT was that conservative gay men's publication that had a strict policy against adult content. Hero was geared toward men in committed relationships and had a general "we're gay, but we're so normal" flavor.

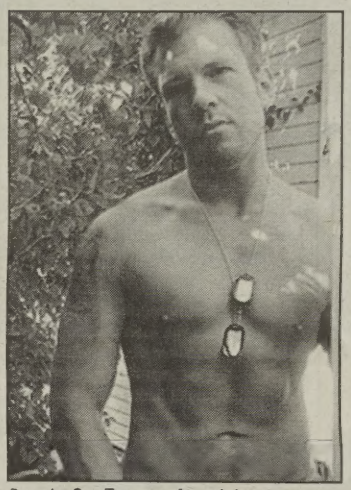
In late 2001, the magazine closed its doors for good after three years in operation. The publisher told Press Pass Q, an electronic newsletter about the gay media, that a weakening economy and a drop in ad sales after the Sept. 11 attacks caused the magazine's downfall.

Ironically, Genre magazine now reports that **SAM FRANCIS**, one of the co-founders of Hero, became **SAM TYSON** — a gay porn star. Co-star of such movies as "Goldenrod" and "The Hole," Tyson apparently is one of the hot stars on the rise in the adult film industry.

"[Hero] really served a market of men who felt alienated from the heavily sexual vibe of other gay men's magazines," Tyson said in an interview with Unzipped.net, a porn magazine.

Tyson said there was always a part of him that wanted to do what he's doing now.

"It existed even before I came out," he noted. "But back then I was too ashamed and too afraid. So this part of me — the sexual energy in me — was just held back."



Porn star **Sam Tyson** was formerly know as Sam Francis, who founded the now-defunct Hero magazine, catering to conservative gay men. (Photo courtesy of Badpuppy.com)

MEDIA BIGWIG **HILARY ROSEN** JOINS CNBC Aug. 1 as a regular commentator on the "Capital Report," "Power Lunch" and "Squawk Box" programs after leaving her job and $1 million annual salary this week as chair of the Recording Industry Association of America.

Rosen, the life partner of Human Rights Campaign Executive Director **ELIZABETH BIRCH**, came under fire as a spokesperson for the RIAA as illegal file-sharing made it easy for anyone with Internet access to download music online without bothering to buy CDs.

Hilary Rosen

"I really like the perspective of CNBC and the way they communicate with an audience whom they expect to be knowledgeable and sophisticated about issues," Rosen told the Washington Post. "So I don't feel like I'm entering show business."

Rosen and Birch announced earlier this year that they are leaving their full-time posts to spend more time with their children. Birch's tenure at HRC ends in December.

MAER ROSHAN, THE GAY EDITOR of Radar magazine, is having a bad time.

In May, someone sent a box of human excrement to his New York office and claimed the messy missive was from rap executive **SUGE KNIGHT**, the New York Post's Page Six reports. Roshan named Knight as one of the "celebrity monsters" profiled in Radar's debut issue.

Maer Roshan

Knight's handler told the paper he did not send the package to Roshan.

But in the July issue of Stuff Magazine, a Maxim knockoff headed by editor **GREG GUTFELD**, a correction ran saying, "In May, we sent a package of excrement to [Roshan]. Turns out, he had asked us to send it to his home address."

Gutfeld is claiming the correction was a joke, but Roshan is skeptical.

"I received a box of shit from 'Suge Knight' which later turned out to be the, uh, handiwork of [Gutfeld]," Roshan said in the online magazine Black Table. "I thought it was one of his more impressive accomplishments as an editor."

Ouch.

Send comments, suggestions to **Dish@sovo.com.**

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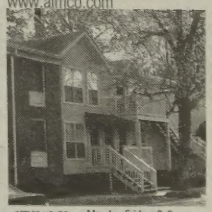
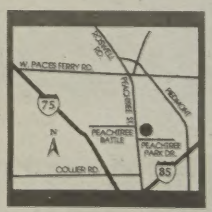

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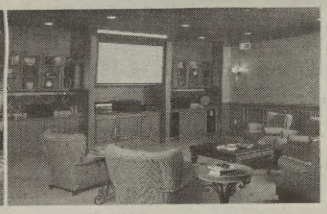

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A Moo-velous campaign

Gay artists among herd of designers in CowParade Atlanta

By MIKE FLEMING

DRIVERS ARE USED TO SEEING cows lazily munching grass alongside rural highways outside metro Atlanta. But beginning next week, more than 150 of the creatures' much more colorful cousins will be on view from inner-city roadsides as well.

The life-sized fiberglass cows decorated by local artists stampede into the city this weekend for the kickoff of CowParade Atlanta, a fund-raising and art awareness campaign that has taken place in other cities including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

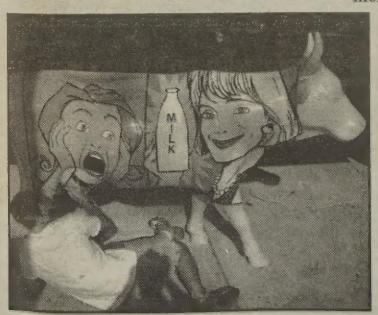
The fun starts in Centennial Olympic Park where all the cows are on display in an outdoor festival June 26-28. After that, the boisterous bovines are rounded up and placed to graze throughout metro Atlanta until Sept. 26.

Individual cows and mini herds are set for undisclosed locations in Midtown, Underground Atlanta, Buckhead and Decatur as well as further pastures in Perimeter Mall, Alpharetta and Marietta.

CowParade Atlanta is "a really great event to be involved with because it's so unique," says Candice Bennett, a gay artist who headed the Accenture design team on cows sponsored by the company.

"It's great that it tears so many barriers down with something so public and creative that presents fine art in a way everyone can respond to it," she says.

After the event, the cows go to two cattle auctions this fall and raise money for the Southeast Division of the American Cancer Society.



Mark Husbands and 'Lactose Intolerabull'

Justin Winslow and 'That's Cow It Goes' (Photo by Stephen D'Andrea)

AT LEAST THREE GAY ARTISTS were among those chosen from more than 500 submissions to CowParade judges.

And the overall parade's design diversity is reflected even among the works of Bennett, whose team created "The Downtown Cow-nnector," the Pop-inspired "Lactose Intolerabull" of Mark Husbands, and Justin Winslow's surrealistic "That's Cow It Goes" that looks like the cow is being eaten by a serpent.

Corporations sponsor most of the entries and subsidize those projects. So when Winslow, didn't hear from the judging panel for a while, "I figured my cow design might have been too weird or silly or irrelevant for a corporation to sponsor," he says.

It did turn out that no sponsors were biting on Winslow's design. But in the end, his design wowed the panel, and he was chosen to be sponsored directly by CowParade Atlanta.

"The idea of art existing around town outside of the usual gallery setting really appeals to me," Winslow says.

Accenture, an international management consulting and technology services company with offices in Atlanta, sponsored cows by Bennett's team and Husbands, among others.

"I heard about the CowParade when it was in New York and Chicago, and I really thought it was a cool way to inject art into people's lives that aren't usually exposed to it," Husbands says.

Husbands extended his regular repertoire of Pop and abstract works to the new challenge of his cow canvas, which hearkens the cartoon works of Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. In electric colors and with tongue humorously planted in cheek, Husbands includes the image of an old fashioned milk bottle.

Accenture put out an internal call for artists to team up on the "Downtown Cow-nnector." The result — a cow covered with a roadmap design — was conceived by Sally Hall, and Bennett was chosen to guide the team.

ALL THREE ARTISTS say there's more to them — and their art — than sexual orientation.

"My sexuality is rarely found in my subject matter, but I'd have to say that art has been like a conduit for me, letting me express ... sadness, anger and fear — some of which are related to growing up gay in a small Southern town," Husbands says.

Candice Bennett and 'Downtown Cow-nnector'

Bennett's work is not dictated by sexual orientation, but being gay may be part of her outlook, she says.

"I associate open mindedness with it more than anything else, and that's as far as it goes," she says.

Winslow calls being gay "totally a non-issue with me as an artist, although I feel blessed to observe the world from a perspective that's different from the mainstream," he says.

MORE INFO

CowParade Atlanta
Kickoff June 26-28
Centennial Olympic Park
260 Marietta St., NW
Metro Atlanta, June 29-Sept. 26
www.cowparadeatlanta.com

appts.

FRIDAY JUNE 27

Lesbian rockers **Group Sex** perform a rare stage show of their classic-rock covers at 10 p.m. at the Echo Lounge, 551 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-681-3600, www.echostatic.com

Gay-owned gallery **Art 101** hosts a Pride celebration and opening for artists Tim Wilkerson, Margaret Newton, M. Johns, Judy Knight and others from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. 1960 Cheshire Bridge Road. 404-872-5492, www.art101gallery.com

SATURDAY JUNE 28

The acoustic stylings of gay folk musician **Wayne Fishell** rock the house at 9 p.m. at Eyedrum Gallery, 290 MLK Jr. Drive SE, Suite 8. 404-522-0655, www.eyedrum.org

Superstar DJ/producer Brett Henrichsen and gay porn star-turned-singer Colton Ford heat up the **2003 Unity Pride dance** from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. at Earthlink Live, 1374 West Peachtree St. 404-885-1365, www.electraentertainment.com, www.earthlinklive.com

FRIDAY JUNE 27 & SATURDAY JUNE 28

'The Gift,' a documentary examining the controversy behind HIV 'bugcatchers' and 'gift-givers,' screens at 10:45 p.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m. at the **Dahlonega International Film Festival**, Dahlongega, Ga. 404-885-4410, www.difff.tv

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dining JONATHAN LERNER

Cheap, attractive and delicious, latest venue from tried-and-true restaurateur makes **Billy Goat's Cantina** a winner.

Saying 'genius' in Spanish

I LIKED MARGIE'S PANTRY ENORmously and was sorry to see it close. Margie didn't have a lick of design sense, but she was a passionate cook and turned out awesome meals, cheap as dirt.

Now her old storefront in the increasingly less funky Oakhurst section of Decatur is taken over by Michele Niesen and reopened as Billy Goat's Cantina. Niesen's other restaurant is the idiosyncratic and thoroughly delightful Supper Club, and she happens to be nearly as good a decorator as she is a chef.

The result? Diners can still saunter over to the corner of East Lake Drive and Oakview Road for a delicious cheap dinner. But now that meal can be eaten it in artful surroundings, too.

Billy Goat is Niesen's dog — a female, actually — whose image is all over the room. But the operative word here is "cantina." In both menu and looks, the restaurant is a surreal rendition of a tavern in some indeterminate Latin American country.

The affinity for Latin "cocina" that Niesen occasionally plays with at the Supper Club goes free-range here.

The high, sloped, burlap-covered ceiling suggests a thatched roof. The walls and bar are surfaced in a mottled, mossy green that looks several hundred years old.

In the men's room, one wall is painted up like a huge "retablo" — the sort of folksy prayer-medallion in South American churches — and the other walls have an impossibly gorgeous finish, at once smoky and blushing.

Think hallucinatory journeys to exotic but benign locales. Coming in the front door is like stepping into the J. Peterman catalogue.

MY ONLY COMPLAINTS — WITH THE décor, or anything — is that there are several too many of the big, comfy bar stools crowding up the counter and an unremarkable margarita.

But the house sangria is bracing — barely sweet with a refreshing, Campari-like bitterness. Beers are from south of the border, wines all either Spanish or Argentine. The big, rich bonarda, an obscure red varietal from Alamos of Argentina, was a revelatory bargain at $7 per glass.

The menu isn't huge. Soups, salads, sandwiches and quesadillas range from $4-8. Plates are $7-15, mostly on the lower end.

Chips ($3) are greaseless and come with a pair of red salsas, one hot and bright of fire-roasted tomatoes, and the other hotter and smoky of chipotle peppers.

The soft, open tacos — on chewy house-made flour tortillas — are about $3, and can easily serve the function of a salad. The spicy fish taco is piled with a snappy chipotle slaw, and the chicken one has a mound of cilantro, lettuce and onion salad.

There's a different chile relleno daily. But it would suit me fine if the stellar vegetable-stuffed poblano were made the permanent offering. The pepper is filled with a mélange of mushroom, red onion, zucchini and red bell pepper — all meltingly soft — and just a touch of cheese.

It's baked instead of battered or fried, so it's not at all heavy. The plate is then widely striped with three different molé sauces like the flag of some obscure republic. One is a crisp, cooked green tomatillo salsa. Another is a fiery red tomato sauce, and the third is a rich, mild tan one of roasted pumpkin seeds.

A DINNER SPECIAL OF PORK STEW is also a knockout. It consists of lean cubes of meat in an earthy, searing, brick-red sauce. It comes over rice or poblano mashed potatoes.

For dessert, bitter chocolate pot de crème arrives in a demi-tasse, like an espresso with a similar punch.

How does a chef of such energy and genius avoid the temptation to sell out to the culture of glitz and nosebleed pricing? However Neisen does it, her guests are the beneficiaries.

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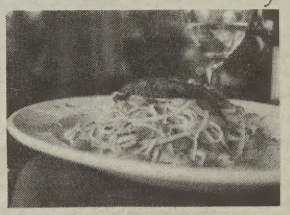

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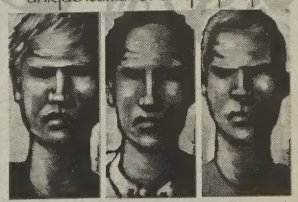

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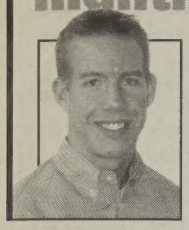


Blu pours steady flow of national turntable talents, including DJs Abel, Joe Gauthreaux for **Pride**.

Hey, DJ!

The boys at Blu enjoy the country's hottest DJs week after week. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR SITTING at home on a Saturday night with nothing to do. That would mean missing out on some incredible talent on the turntables at Blu Atlanta, the city's premiere gay circuit dance spot.

Since the club opened a few years ago, Atlanta has been spoiled every Saturday night with international DJs making their way into our backyard. And no recent performance proves it better than DJ Alyson Calagna, who spun at the club June 14.

If you haven't heard of Calagna yet, you soon will. Her set was as impeccable as the likes of legends Susan Morabito and Manny Lehman.

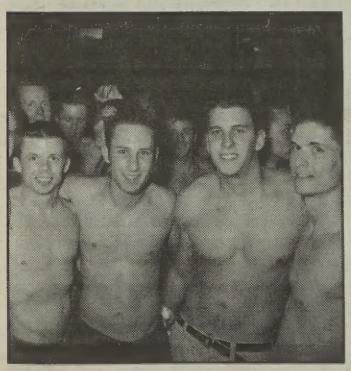
Infusing tribal and Latin sounds with an energy all her own, Calagna had the Atlanta crowd in awe. One of the qualities that pushes any DJ beyond the rest is a unique sound, and Calagna perfects that quality.

Throughout the night, she teased revelers with small clips of "American Life" by Madonna. It was like the song was evolving and taking on a life of its own over the course of the evening.

Calagna relied heavily on the power of the drums in songs like "Zumba E" from Antoine Claraman, a track heating up a lot of dance floors this year.

But one of the most impressive mixes Calagna played was a new one of her own: "Wurkin!" by Housekeeperz featuring Ceevox. Calagna's mix, which is signed to Harlequin Records and will be available soon, has an incredible vibe that sent the crowd to a frenzy.

Now based Miami, Calagna has spun at gay clubs all over the country. Increasingly, she is also asked to perform at circuit events including Meltdown in Austin, Texas, and Blue Ball in Philadelphia. For the Blue Ball, she completed a mixed CD for Centaur Music that has been enthusiastically received.



ANOTHER DJ WITH A RECOGNIZable sound hit the turntables at Blu on, June 21. DJ Rick Mitchell is known for his heart-attack high energy and creative mixology.

But this past Saturday, he deviated from his usually vocal-intensive sound and featured mostly songs without words. But he kept his trademark fanatic energy.

The result was a new kind of afterhours sound that garnered mixed reaction from attendees. Even without a unanimous reaction to the new sound, the guys stayed with Mitchell until the very end anticipating what he would play next.

The highlight of the night was Mitchell playing a signature mix in which he fuses two songs back and forth seamlessly. The two songs this night were Thunderpuss' "Six Feet Under" and the club classic "Insomnia" by Faithless that holds the unforgettable lyrics "I can't get no sleep."

Just when it sounded like he would climax with one of the songs, it ended up being the other. By the end of the mix, everyone in the club lost control.

If you missed Mitchell or didn't get enough of him, drive to Charleston, S.C., for the Freedom Party for July 4 weekend. Mitchell is spinning the main event on July 6 at the Charleston Maritime Center.

BLU'S LIST OF INCREDIBLE DJ'S doesn't stop there. Pride weekend features two DJ's that need no introduction.

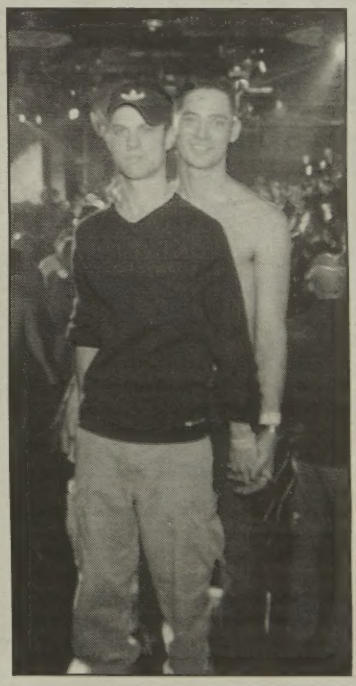
DJ Abel heats up the dance floor Friday night with the magic that has made him one of the most recognized DJs in the nation.

Abel was here for last year's Pride party at Turner Field with Kim English. Because Atlanta hosted competing parties that particular night, attendance was low, but this year, Abel ensures there won't be any question of which party to attend.

And to tempt partiers even further to stay up late Saturday night at the risk of missing the parade, Joe Gauthreaux takes his turn at Blu for the second Pride Saturday in a row.

Gauthreaux's career has skyrocketed in the past year. He won the coveted *headline DJ spot for Jeffrey Sanker's "One Mighty Party" at Gay Days at* Disney earlier this month.

Revelers can always count on Blu Atlanta for the best DJs, so keep your eyes open for who might be spinning next. The venue welcomes DJ Billy Carroll on July 5 for "Red, White and Blu."



MORE INFO

Blu
960 Spring St.
www.bluatlanta.com

DJ Alyson Calagna
www.djalysoncalagna.com

DJ Rick Mitchell
www.djrickmitchell.com

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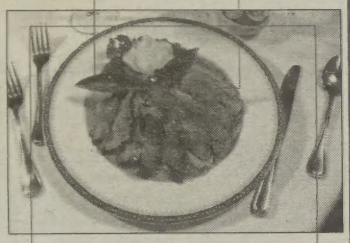

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nightlife calendar

Local drag legend **Kitty LeClaw** pumps up the jam for Monday night karaoke at Burkhart's Pub. 404-872-4403. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

FRIDAY JUNE 27

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. 404-881-9280.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. 404-873-1986.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 6-8 p.m. 404-892-5786.
BLU. 404-877-1221.
THE BREAKING POINT. Gong show talent contest, late karaoke. 770-426-4199.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop. 404-872-3025.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and house night. 678-702-0872.
EAGLE. 404-873-2453.
CHAPARRAL. Gay night. 2715 Buford Highway. 404-634-3737.
HERETIC. Sweat, 10 p.m.-4a.m. 404-325-3061.
LE BUZZ. TGIF celebration. 770-424-1337.
MARY'S. "Danceteria," 9 p.m. 404-624-4411.
METRO. "Transfixion" starring Kristina Diva, Peg, E.J., and Jason Jupiter, midnight. 404-874-9869.
MODEL T. Le Box All Male Revue, 10 p.m. 404-872-2209.
MY SISTER'S ROOM. 404-370-1990.
OSCAR'S. 404-874-7748.
RED CHAIR. 404-870-0532.
RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. 404-873-3220.
TRIPPS. 404-724-0067.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m. and 1a.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Super Saturdays Talent Show.
BLU. "Freedom" for Pride, 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Dance party, kitchen's open 5-11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, hip hop, and urban dance music.
COLOURS. Male review party with men from original Jaguar, midnight.
LE BUZZ. Dixie Encore with Tequila Mockingbird, 10:30 p.m.
MARY'S. "Beat Surrender," 9:30 p.m.
METRO. Caliente! Pride celebration, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Drag show featuring the Model Teez Girlz, 11 p.m.

SUNDAY JUNE 29

BACKSTREET. "Sunday Church", 2 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Blake's Big Time Drag Review, 9:30 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop night.
EAGLE. Open 6 p.m to midnight.
HERETIC. Open 12:30 p.m. to midnight, dancefloor 6 p.m. to midnight.
METRO. "Party with Pride Latin Style," 4 p.m.-4 a.m.
RED CHAIR. Brunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, Deva Station and Fajita Marinara, 9 p.m.
TRIPPS. Sunday starters with Tami.

MONDAY JUNE 30

ARMORY. "Mouth of the South" Live, 9:30 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool, forming new dart leagues.
BUDDIES ON CHESHIRE BRIDGE. Free pool until 8 p.m. 404-634-5895.
BULLDOGS. Feel good house night.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Kitty LeClaw hosts karaoke, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool and favorite rock music.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Music Trivia, 8 p.m.-10 p.m. 404-875-6634.
LE BUZZ. Girls night out.
METRO. "Trash." Celebrate the '80s, 10 p.m.
OSCAR'S. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & a movie, 7:30 p.m.
RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. Karaoke, 9 p.m. 404-873-3220.

TUESDAY JULY 1

ARMORY. 'Too Hot' Tuesdays with Heather Daniels and Chili.
BACKSTREET. Deep, down and dirty, 10 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Wet t-shirt contests, truth or dare.
BULLDOGS. Solution dance ritual.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Karaoke with Tyler King, 10 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.
HOEDOWNS. Beginning two-step free dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia Challenge, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Truth or Dare Trivia & Karaoke, 8 p.m.
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. Latin House music.
RED CHAIR. Ladies Night. Drag Kings at 10, 10:30, & 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY JULY 2

ARMORY. Pandamonium – Death by Disco, 9 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Spotlight, 1 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Blake's Boys, 10:30 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Hip Hop, Urban Beats.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Gospel revival with Morticia DeVille & the Gospel Girls, 8:45 p.m.
COLOURS. Go-go dancers with men of the original Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Retro dance music.
HAZE. Gay night. 404-249-8900.
HERETIC. Dress code party, 10 p.m.-4a.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate two-step free dance lessons.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Live music by Alice Muson and Friends on 100-seat patio, weather permitting.
LE BUZZ. Dance Out Loud, Rump Night, 10 p.m.
METRO. Class & Ass Show at midnight starring Felicia Sapphire, Neasia and Yanae, and guests.
OSCAR'S. Comedy Night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Lust & Bust Show starring Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks, Martina Diamante, and Ashley Kruiz, 10 p.m.
RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. Leather, Levi fetish night, 9 p.m.
VISION. "Skin and Sin." DJ Bill Berdeaux. 404-874-4460.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover with bar-employee ID. 404-352-0532.
TRIPPS. Covergirl karaoke with Crystal, 11 p.m.

THURSDAY JULY 3

ARMORY. Diamond Divas and Platinum Boys with Monica Van Pelt, 11:30 pm.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-rated Cabaret, 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Calendar Boy Contest, 10:30 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Piano & band night.
BULLDOGS. Trash disco, soulful house, and hip-hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Latin Night. Drag show with Cliques Buenestro, midnight.
EAGLE. Underwear party with clothes check.
HERETIC. Rapture Party, 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line waltz free dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. '80s retro trivia.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. "Ultimate Divas" best in female impersonation.
MODEL T. Talent search with Jewell Holiday, 10 p.m.
OSCAR'S. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Karaoke with Ruby Red, 9:30 p.m.
RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE. S.H.E. meeting, 7 p.m.
TRIPPS. Country night with Ron "Big Lick" Haller and Ms. Big Pretty, 9 p.m.–4a.m.

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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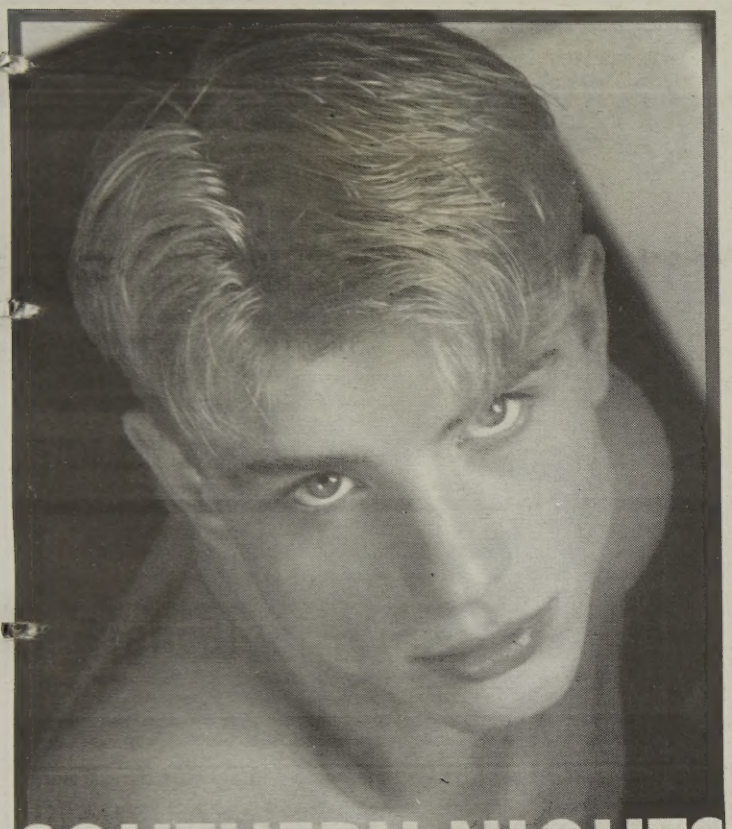

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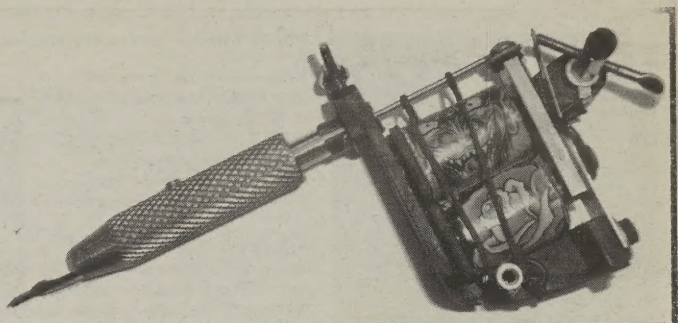

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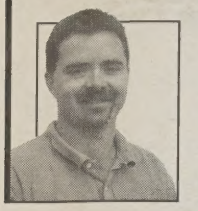

Latest show from local author about a **family of choice** offers some tight scenes, some room for improvement.

Promising young playwright

JUST IN TIME FOR PRIDE WEEKEND, the Process Theater Company opened the newest work by local gay playwright Topher Payne, "Relations Unknown."

This Atlanta-based production revolves around seven characters, including Shep (Dan Balmer), a 30-ish gay man who gets some really bad news the same day he realizes his best friend Chris (Josh Howland) is dying of cancer. As fate would have it, he meets a potential romantic partner (Theroun Patterson) at virtually the same time.

Shep's friend Narissa (Cherise Jefferrson) is a personal trainer with a history of bad luck with men, including one who turned out to be gay. The show's catalyst is Ms. Eckles (Marcie Millard), who works in a sperm bank.

Payne's early scenes are tight, zippy and satisfactorily directed by DeWayne Morgan.

But the second act goes a little haywire, with way too much happening and a most unfortunate and inadvisable plot twist. Another sequence — a drag number — is equally awkward.

The performers are a mixed bag. The most charismatic is Millard, a bright actress with crack comic timing. But her character is a puzzle. Almost homophobic one moment, dancing at a party with gay men the next, she makes no sense.

Theroun Patterson has an easygoing charm as Shep's potential beau, Cliff.

Payne shows a lot of promise, but he needs to rework the second act. Any show that raises heady issues — death, HIV, faith and mother-son relationships — but ends with a cutesy phone conversation with Julia Roberts has steered off course.

FEW PHRASES IN LOCAL THEATER scare me like the words "a play by Janece Shaffer." The playwright's "Wishful Thinking" is the first half of Horizon's annual New South Play Festival.

Schaffer wrote the banal romantic comedies "She Looks Good in a Hat" and "The Genes of Beauty Queens." To her credit, this new show is probably the best thing she has penned.

One morning, housewife Norma (Deborah Polston) shrieks in her bathroom when she discovers that she has wings. Across the country in Los Angeles, entertainment lawyer Amy (Tess Malis Kincaid) makes a similar find: she has turned into a mermaid.

When Amy sees Norma's predicament on CNN, she hops a plane with her gay personal assistant (John Fischer) to visit her childhood friend Norma to discover what has befallen them.

The first act is a real mess, shrill and implausible with one of the most stereotypical gay characters you're likely to see anywhere.

"A fairy, a mermaid ... and a queen!" he quips as he points to himself, in one of Shaffer's attempts at cutting-edge humor.

The show features three-dimensional characters and a nice scene between the two women in which a lot of their pained past comes to the surface. But too often, Shaffer falls back on her trademark predictability and cutesyness.

Cherise Jefferson, **Josh Howland** and **Dan Balmer** deal with love and loss in Topher Payne's 'Relations Unknown,' running through this weekend at Dad's Garage Top Shelf Theatre.

THEATER OF THE STARS HOSTS "Miss Saigon" through this weekend at the Fox Theatre, a smaller venue than past productions.

The sixth longest running show in Broadway history, ""Saigon" got a face-lift of sorts, according to Jamal McDonald, a gay actor who is part of the ensemble and the understudy for the key role of John.

"It's been scaled down which means we can fit in smaller arenas," he says.

He won't say how the helicopter will fly down, but does add that some of the lyrics are subtly changed.

"'Miss Saigon' is one of those musicals that appeal to all audiences — beautiful music and a tragic love story that tugs at the heart strings," McDonald says. "There's a reason it has remained popular."

MORE INFO

'Relations Unknown'
Through June 29
Dad's Garage Top Shelf
280 Elizabeth St.
404-586-9860

'Wishful Thinking'
Through June 29
Horizon Theater
1083 Austin Ave.
404-523-1477

'Miss Saigon'
Through June 29
Fox Theatre
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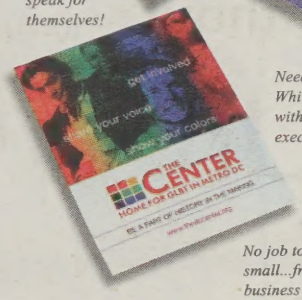

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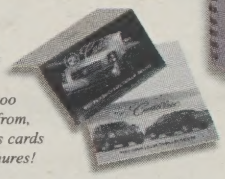

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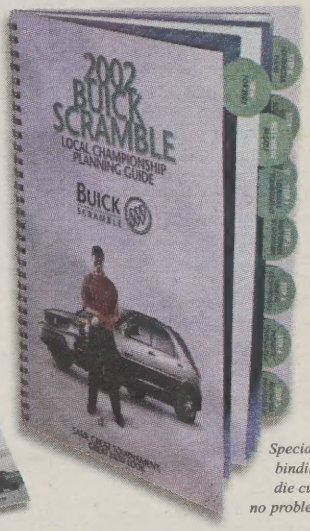

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'Top Model' contestant learned from TV show appearance

TOP MODEL, continued from Page 53

"I'm naturally a clown," Haith says. "I'm really a girly girl as well. If I'm going through something, you're going to know it."

Her big clown smile was seen naturally when she invited her girlfriend, Ka, to visit the house.

"The girls came in to meet my girlfriend, and their whole attitude [changed]," Haith says. "They all came and introduced themselves — Robin too. ... I knew that they were going to be acceptable toward it and understand that this wasn't something that was a joke."

Haith was an out lesbian from the beginning of her involvement with the show, but none of the other contestants knew.

"Tyra already knew," Haith says. "After we were narrowed down to the 10, that was the first thing she said to me, 'we all know you're a lesbian.'"

Haith told Banks that because there are so many gays in all aspects of fashion, she didn't believe that being gay would hinder her career.

And besides Manning's protestations, if the other on-camera guests and celebrity judges are any indication, she's right.

In one episode, the flamboyant runway expert J. Alexander refers to his husband, the doctor, when one of the model-hopefuls reveals that she'll attend medical school if she does not win the competition.

Manning's anti-gay sentiments were disrespectful to the large numbers of gays who support models and actresses, Haith says.

"I was a little shocked," she says. "Thinking to myself, 'You're not only making these comments toward me, you're making these comments to the person who made you look fabulous yesterday, the one that made that outfit that you wore look amazing, the one who held your hand when you were crying.'"

DURING AND AFTER JUNE — TYPICALLY known as Gay Pride month — Haith says gays should be out and proud in all aspects of their lives.

"You have a lot of people who are not being honest and hiding these things," she says. "I think in the long run, today, [staying in the closet] is really going to be negativity for you because you're going to be portrayed as a liar, as if you don't love yourself."

Haith does not fear that being out will hurt her modeling career. In fact, she wants to be a director and an actress as well, and fears that may be more difficult.

"I think that people are always going to be in fear of what other people say," she says.

In the future, Haith says she hopes attitudes will change.

"We have newscasters who are 60 years old, 70, 80, who are coming out saying they're gay now," she says. "We have priests who are now finally getting accepted into churches. This is something that, in the next ten years, it really is yesterday's news."

After a month of nationally televised grueling work — including sub-zero outdoor shoots, criticisms about dry skin, and being called a sinner, Haith is still smiling.

"I think I'm one of the most happy financially unstable people there is," she says.

And she says if she learned one thing from participating on "America's Next Top Model," it's that she exists.

"I am present," Haith says. "I have always felt that as an African American woman especially — a woman, period — that I have had to do extra to say I'm here. ... I was helped to realize, by watching this show, that I was present from the beginning."

Haith was eliminated on the June 10 episode. The season finale of the show airs July 8.

Even though **Ebony Haith** was eliminated from the competition on 'America's Next Top Model,' she says she covets the opportunity to be out and proud on national television.

MORE INFO

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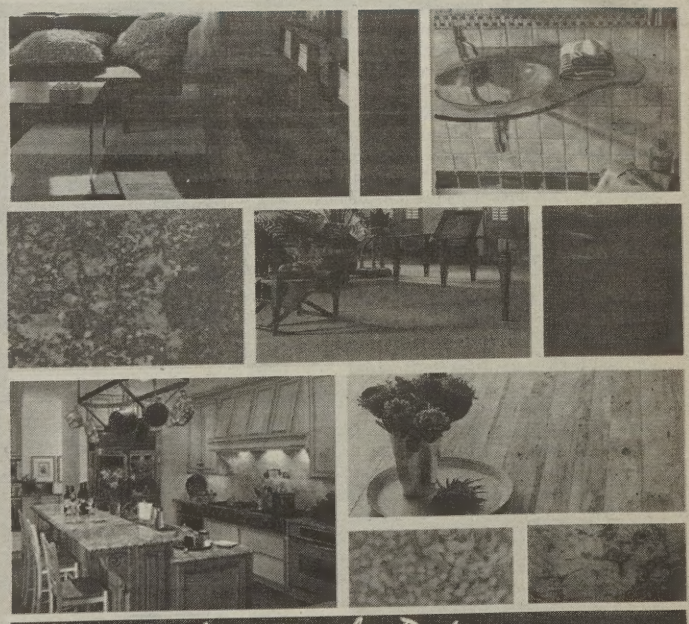

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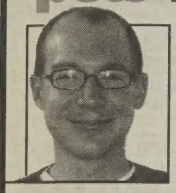
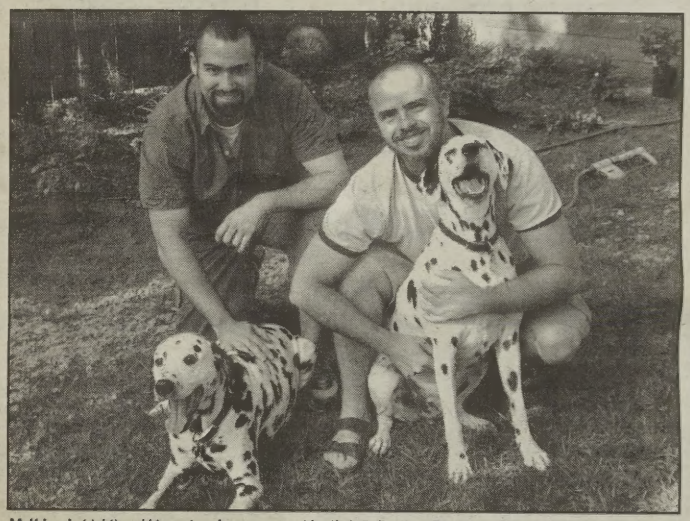


When it comes to spending on pets, gays **top the list,** even hitting the pool for swim therapy if necessary.

Money is no object



Matt Lewis (right) and his partner **Laurence** consider their Dalmatians **Pepper** and **Bruce** family, including making Bruce's golden years comfortable with swim therapy for the dog's arthritis. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

A STROLL THROUGH PIEDMONT PARK on any given afternoon is a show of pooch pals and their people strutting their stuff.

Gays are known as pet lovers, with a recent survey revealing they overwhelmingly own pets and pay the price to pamper them.

A survey by GLCensus Partners shows that of 8,831 respondents from the 2002-2003 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, 78.5 percent own pets and spend an average between $300 and $432 per year on pet products.

Lead researcher Amy Falkner of Syracuse University says gays adopt pets for the same reason anyone does: They enrich life.

"Many people consider their pets as important as family members," Falkner says.

Just as gays are more willing to pay a higher price for the best services and products for themselves, so are they willing to pay a premium for their pets.

Jeffrey Garber, who founded the GLCensus Partnership, says that his survey of gay pet owners is interesting in that it is encourages gay-friendly businesses to evaluate their policies toward pets and the products and services they provide.

The GLCensus found that 86.9 percent of female respondents and 70.8 percent of male respondents have a pet. Comparatively, 62 percent of the general population owns a pet, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

AND IT'S NO DIFFERENT IN ATLANTA. Matt Lewis, a Midtown resident, has owned Dalmatians for more than a decade, currently playing proud papa to 11-year-old Bruce and 5-year-old Pepper.

Lewis says that he and his partner, Laurence, very much consider Pepper and Bruce little Lewises.

"We absolutely consider them our children," Matt says. "They are very much so thought of that way in our home."

Much like children, the dogs show only total love for him and his partner, he says.

"With them, they love you unconditionally and, like children, they need you to provide for them," he says. "They're like children because they are always stuck at a certain age where they need you to provide food and a home."

And like two proud papas, the Lewises are willing to spend whatever is necessary to ensure the safety, health and happiness of Bruce and Pepper.

They may not spend as much on toys as other families, but the Lewises have always been ready and willing to spend whatever they could to ensure health and happiness for their little ones.

Bruce is starting to feel the strain of old age at 11 years old, including arthritis. He experienced pain in walking up stairs and sitting, so his masters began looking for programs that might help.

Seeing an ad for "Dog Paddle," a canine swim therapy program in Decatur, he contacted founder Marna Stein and enrolled the ailing Bruce in a twice-monthly program.

"I saw the ads in SoVo and thought that this would be a wonderful thing for Bruce," Matt says, "He just loves the program. He gets excited every time we turn on Marna's street."

STEIN, WHO MOVED FROM NORTHERN California where she studied the Kern Method of swim therapy, says she sees a variety of dogs come through her swim therapy program.

The people and dogs that Stein works with are very open-minded about options for their furry family members, and the swim therapy participants she works with are often willing to spend the money necessary to ensure the health and happiness of their pooches, she says.

"We are seeing that our main audience for therapies think more alternatively and see these new therapies as an option for themselves and their animals," Stein says.

Lewis says when it comes to the health and happiness of Bruce and Pepper, money is no object, proving that the old adage is true: You can't put a price tag on family.

MORE INFO

Dog Paddle
www.dogpaddle.net.

GLCensus
www.glcensus.org.

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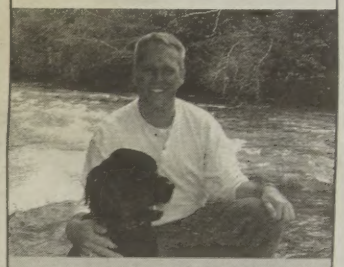

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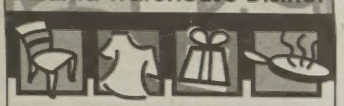

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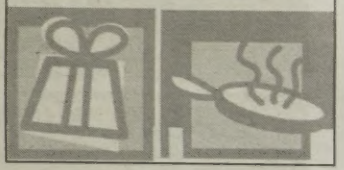

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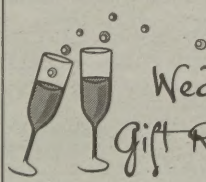

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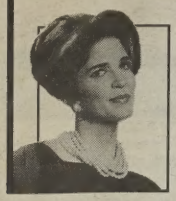

Gay man isn't **feeling the love** since lesbian friend gave birth; lesbian feels crowded by girlfriend's sperm donor.

She's having a baby

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My best friend and her girlfriend just had a baby. Ellen promised that she wouldn't become one of those mothers who only talk about feeding schedules and nipple chafing and poop.

But guess what? It's all she talks about. I don't want to be petulant, but Ellen and her girlfriend don't pay enough attention to me and my issues any more. We don't go out to bars, they don't invite me over to dinner, and I feel like I've lost my best friend.

Why do lesbians forget that their other friends even exist as soon as they give birth? I feel alone in the world. How long do people remain obsessed with their infants?

Can I demand that they be better friends to me, even though they have a noisy, smelly baby now? Or am I supposed to just let my resentment fester until I burst?

—John

Dear John:

Ellen and her girlfriend have clearly forgotten who you are. If you go ring their doorbell wearing only a diaper and carrying a bottle, they might remember how much you need them. Then they'll scoop you up in their arms and rock you in a blanket, and you'll feel much better.

Most parents talk gibberish for the first two years of their baby's lives, and aren't capable of normal adult conversation until their child is old enough for kindergarten. This is not something you can or should fight. You cannot win the battle against genetically programmed behavior.

Perhaps you'll feel more a part of the family if you become willing to take a role in the baby's life. If being an uncle seems unappealing at first, maybe you can adjust to it gradually, or become an auntie instead.

You'll probably want to make some new friends too, rather than waiting five or six years for Ellen to become more attentive. But you should know that becoming totally baby-focused is not exclusive to lesbian parents, lest you think the odds of becoming the center of the universe will improve if you find a straight woman to be your mommy.

Most parents talk gibberish for the first two years of their baby's lives, and aren't capable of normal adult conversation until their child is old enough for kindergarten.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I'm dating Linda, a sexy, smart woman, who is everything I've always wanted in a partner. The complication is that Linda is currently trying to have a baby with her close gay male friend, David.

They've been inseminating for months and plan to raise the child together. David is very nice, but he's always around.

I'm worried that it will only worsen after Linda gets pregnant. I've always wanted a baby too, but I'm not sure how I feel about three-way parenting.

I've found myself hoping that Linda will fall in love with me and then change her mind about her arrangement with David. That's probably jumping too far ahead anyway, because Linda and I have only had two dates. But would I be foolish to pursue a relationship with Linda?

—Stella

Dear Stella:

After two dates, you want Linda to change her mind and alter her life plans? Most lesbians don't demand that their girlfriends modify their lives until the fourth date, by which point you'd have more information to determine whether you have compatible appetites for music, sex and food.

When you get involved with someone new, you need to imagine that things will remain exactly as they are, rather than assume that they'll be modified to suit you. People change in all sorts of ways over time, but rarely in precisely the ways that you hope or imagine.

Hinging your happiness on a particular change puts a huge strain on a relationship. Don't pursue a relationship with Linda if you'll only be happy if she dumps David.

David and his sperm are clearly at the center of Linda's life right now, so you'll need to figure out whether or not you can be happy with that arrangement.

@ **Meryl Cohn** is the author of 'Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay & Lesbian Etiquette.' She can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.

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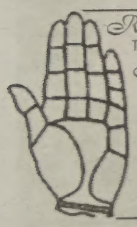

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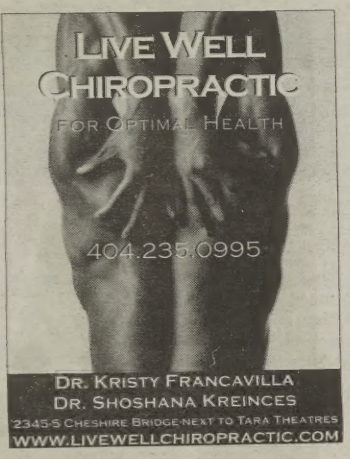

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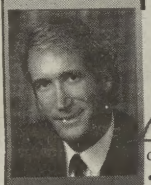

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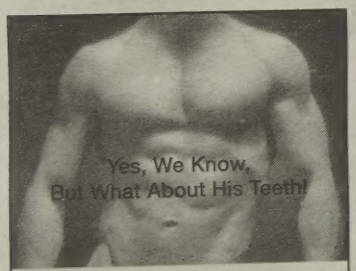

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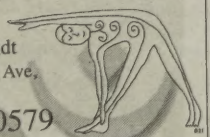

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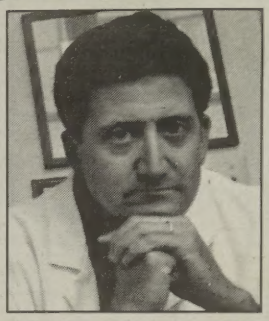
medical report

Syphilis rise in San Francisco fed through hook-ups made online

SAN FRANCISCO — The Internet made it easier for gay men to find quick sexual encounters, and that is leading to an increase in some sexually transmitted diseases, according to Jeffrey Klausner, director of sexual disease prevention at San Francisco's Department of Public Health. Some 38 percent of recent syphilis cases are among men who met online, he told Reuters. That is up nearly 25 percent from two years ago. Klausner said the ease of meeting someone in an Internet chat room draws men who are at more risk than others. "It is just a lot easier for people to meet partners online, so they are more likely to meet more partners," he said. "It brings together what we call high-risk core groups who are particularly interested in having a lot of new partners ... it is these high-risk core groups that are the first groups to get new infections." Many large cities, including Washington, D.C., San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles and Miami have also seen increases in the number of new syphilis cases.



Jeffrey Klausner, director of sexual disease prevention at San Francisco's Department of Public Health, says syphilis cases are on the rise among gay men who use the Internet to find sex partners. (Photo by Erin Lubin/AP)

FDA approves first single pill protease inhibitor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration approved the first once-a-day protease inhibitor to treat AIDS on June 20. Reyataz requires just a once-daily dose of two pills, taken with food, unlike the other six protease inhibitor's already on the market, which require several pills to be taken at once. Protease inhibitors are a powerful type of drug that revolutionized HIV care in the mid-1990s. Protease inhibitors taken together with older AIDS medicines suppress HIV enough to allow many patients to stay far healthier for years longer. Reyataz manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb said the drug, known chemically as atazanavir, would hit pharmacy shelves in the U.S. next month. The company refused to reveal the price, saying only that it would be competitive with other protease inhibitors. Reyataz appears to work as well as other protease inhibitors.

Women reluctant to discuss sexually transmitted diseases with doctors

NEW YORK — Many women are not talking about their sexually transmitted diseases with either their health care providers or their partners, according to a survey released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and published in SELF magazine. About half of the women surveyed between 18 and 49 said they have never discussed HIV or other STDs with their doctor, far fewer than those who have talked about other issues, like breast cancer or heart disease. The same number said they have not discussed HIV testing with their partners and 60 percent said they have not discussed getting tested for any STDs with their partners. The main reasons the women gave for not discussing these issues were embarrassment or concern about being judged; not knowing what to ask or how to bring it up; and a belief that their doctor or partner did not need to know. Most of the women in the survey said when these conversations do take place, they usually are the ones to initiate it.

New surgery treats facial wasting caused by HIV treatment

NEW YORK — Researchers announced last week they developed a new treatment for facial wasting, a condition that makes some HIV-positive patients look gaunt even though they feel healthy, Gay.com reported. Dr. Berish Strauch, a New York City dermatologic surgeon, pumped up the faces of HIV-positive patients by taking the inner layers of skin from elsewhere on the body and grafting it into their sunken cheeks. "All of the patients have been very happy with it. They look younger, they feel better about themselves," Strauch said. Strauch introduced his new therapy at the Association of Plastic Surgeons annual meeting in Baltimore earlier this month. Experts say they believe facial wasting is caused by the drugs people with HIV take, which causes them to lose the fat in their faces and leaves a cadaverous look.

Ala. AIDS agency in jeopardy of closing

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — East Alabama AIDS Outreach is scheduled to close when operating funds run out this month, leaving some 146 HIV-positive people without assistance, said Marilyn Swyers, the center's executive director. "It's going to take $20,000 to keep the doors open this month, and we have to find a steady means of income to run our infrastructure," she said, calling it the worst crisis for the agency in six years. EAAO has federal and state funds to cover medicine distribution, transportation and HIV testing, but it lacks the cash for daily expenses, including rent, insurance and payroll. These services run $4,800 a month and must come from local government and private contributors. Serving four rural counties, the center has experienced a lack of support from the communities it serves while HIV cases continue to rise.

From staff and wire reports

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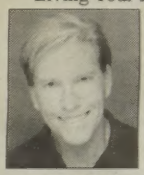
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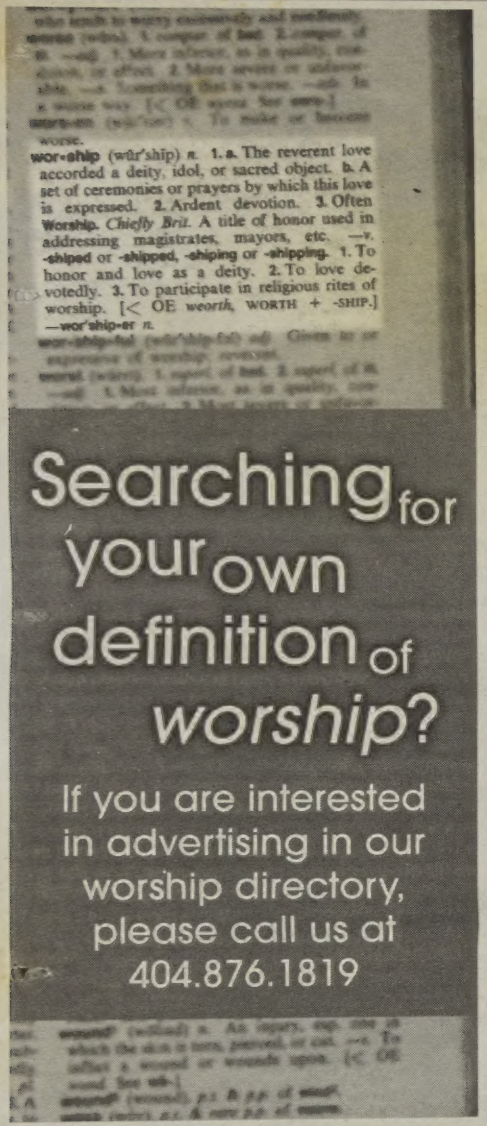
wor•ship (wûr'ship) n. 1. a. The reverent love accorded a deity, idol, or sacred object. b. A set of ceremonies or prayers by which this love is expressed. 2. Ardent devotion. 3. Often Worship. Chiefly Brit. A title of honor used in addressing magistrates, mayors, etc. —v. -shiped or -shipped, -shiping or -shipping. 1. To honor and love as a deity. 2. To love devotedly. 3. To participate in religious rites of worship. [< OE weorth, WORTH + -SHIP.] —wor'ship•er n.
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continued from pages 90 & 91

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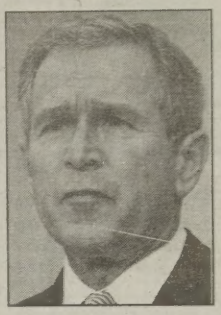
religion news

Bush asks Congress to fund religious groups that discriminate

WASHINGTON — President Bush sent a position paper to Capitol Hill this week that clarifies his position that religious groups discriminating against gay men and lesbians should remain eligible for federal funds, the Washington Post reported. The position paper states that "religious hiring rights" are part of religious organizations' civil rights. "When they receive federal funds, they should retain their right to hire those individuals who are best able to further their organizations' goals and mission," according to the Bush paper. There was quick reaction to the announcement. "President Bush shouldn't use his power to force taxpayers to fund their own discrimination," said Dave Noble, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats. "He is wrong to tell states that they cannot protect their citizens against anti-gay prejudice in order to appease his right-wing base on the eve of a reelection campaign." Religious groups that receive federal funds for charitable work are subject to state and local nondiscrimination laws. The White House position paper suggests these groups should be bound by only federal law, which does not recognize discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.



President **George W. Bush** said that religious groups receiving federal funds for charitable work should be allowed to discriminate against gay men and lesbians without fear of losing those funds. (Photo by AP)

Gay minister picked to edit United Church of Christ paper

CLEVELAND, Ohio — United Church News, the official newspaper of the United Church of Christ, announced that Rev. J. Bennett Guess, 36, a gay minister, will become the new editor next month. The monthly goes to church members nationwide and has a readership of 315,000. Guess worked at UCC's Justice & Witness Ministries; before that, he was a pastor in Kentucky and also worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper. Guess was a founding member of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, the state's gay- rights organization, which he co-chaired for five years. In 1999, he led a successful campaign to ban anti-gay discrimination in Henderson, Ky., an effort that was overturned in 2001. UCC has a history of liberal stances on gay-rights issues. In 1972, it appointed one of the first openly gay ministers of a major Protestant denomination.

Anglican clergy in Australia oppose recent gay appointments

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Bishops in the conservative Anglican diocese here have come out in opposition to newly appointed openly gay bishops. The Sydney bishops also spoke out against a British Columbia bishop's decision to allow some parishes to bless same-sex unions. Bishop of South Sydney Robert Forsyth joined five other Sydney bishops and Archbishop of Sydney Peter Jensen in a June 23 public statement in which they made it clear that anyone in the church hierarchy who supports such gay-rights issues was not welcome in the Sydney diocese. "We cannot welcome those who have abandoned the teaching of Scripture in such a flagrant manner," Forsyth said. He was apparently referring to Rev. Gene Robinson's appointment as bishop in New Hampshire and Rev. Jeffrey John in Oxford, England. The bishops said the church needed to resist caving into modern pressure. "We're very concerned that the church should keep a rudder and not simply let the world around it buffer it along in certain directions," Forsyth said.

Catholic archbishop meets with Minneapolis church over gay issues

MINNEAPOLIS — The Roman Catholic archbishop here held a one-hour closed meeting with leaders of a parish that have taken gay-friendly positions, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Archbishop Harry Flynn met with leaders from St. Joan of Arc Church on June 17 in what both sides described as a useful exchange of views at the archdiocesan office in St. Paul. "Both sides listened to each other," Flynn's spokesperson told the newspaper. The conciliatory tone stands in marked contrast to the church's stance on gay rights. "Normally, if the archbishop has a problem [with a parish], he'll take it up with a small group," said Rev. Harvey Egan, a retired priest who helped direct St. Joan's toward social issues. "But nothing like this. Things are getting edgy." The church angered archdiocesan officials by inviting gay religious activist Rev. Mel White to deliver a homily. The archdiocese had retracted an award to Kathy Itzin, a lesbian who serves as St. Joan's religious education coordinator.

S.C church draws reaction with sign supporting Scouts

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A Baptist pastor in nearby Socastee came out in favor of the Boy Scouts' anti-gay positions through messages posted on a sign outside his church. Socastee Freewill Baptist Church Pastor Darren Squires told the Myrtle Beach Sun News that most of the phone calls he has received support his stance. "You can't tell a church that they're not right; they believe that homosexuality is a sin," said Carole Reeder, president of the Myrtle Beach chapter of PFLAG. "I wouldn't go to that church." Squires' sign read, "God bless the Boy Scouts for their stand against homosexuality in the Scouts."

From staff and wire reports

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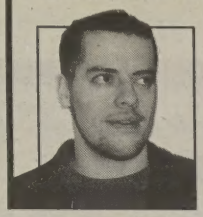

Atlanta residents don't have to drive far to find **Southern jewels** close to home in Athens, Augusta.

Getaways within Georgia

GEORGIA'S MANY GAY VISITORS — and even gay residents — tend to zero in on queer-fabulous Atlanta, or perhaps even sultry Savannah. But the Peach State has much more to offer than these two jewels in the South's tiara.

Perfect for a day-trip from Atlanta, a pair of intriguing Georgia cities lie within an afternoon drive. Athens is a hip, artsy, progressive university hub with an inviting personality, and Augusta is a rapidly gentrifying riverfront city with an up-and-coming downtown and fine museums.

In Athens, the University of Georgia campus fosters an open-minded, tolerant population, as does the edgy arts, theater and live-music scene that cultivated such gay-popular acts as the B-52s and R.E.M. Out rocker Michael Stipe has a home here.

UGA abuts the walkable downtown. Art collectors should explore downtown's Clayton Street, a strip of reputable galleries showing important, often provocative, works. The city also contains numerous antebellum homes and national historic districts.

Every April, Athens hosts the Boybutante Ball, an AIDS benefit with drag fetes, concerts, a women's dance and a campy gala ball held at the famed 40 Watt Club.

And be sure to stop by the 313-acre State Botanical Gardens of Georgia, where a glass conservatory as well as thousands of colorful outdoor plantings. Another highlight is the Georgia Museum of Art.

ATHENS ALSO HAS OODLES OF MEMORable dining options, many of them serving sophisticated fare priced for budget-minded students and artists. Owned partly by Michael Stipe, The Grit serves up delicious vegetarian faves. The Five & Ten, one of the most celebrated restaurants in Georgia, offers stellar contemporary cuisine.

The city's gay nightspot, Boneshakers, contains a small dance floor plus two inviting lounges. Around the corner, the Bean'ry is an artsy, alternative coffeehouse with live music and a funky following.

The Foundry Park Inn offers the coolest downtown accommodations. This old motor lodge was converted into a stylish boutique hotel with a full-service spa and an exceptional restaurant.

AUGUSTA IS A LESS OBVIOUS GAY destination than Athens. This conservative city of 200,000 made headlines in early 2003 because its Augusta National Golf Club, home of the vaunted Masters golf tournament, refuses to admit women.

But Augusta also supports an esteemed arts scene, including a top-notch opera company. And the once-gritty downtown made an admirable comeback with dozens of galleries, antiques shops, cafes, clubs and boutiques.

Sitting adjacent to the University of Georgia campus, the bustling shopping district in downtown Athens offers a hip, inviting day trip or weekend getaway for Atlanta residents. (Photo courtesy Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau)

You can learn about the city's rich industrial legacy at both the Augusta Cotton Exchange Museum and the Augusta Museum of History. Browse a huge collection of vintage furnishings at the nearby Riverwalk Antique Depot, set in an old rail station.

Known for its many public gardens, Augusta is especially popular in the springtime, when flowering dogwoods and azaleas line the streets.

Outdoors enthusiasts should check out the refurbished Augusta Canal, which cuts through downtown. It's a fine spot for a stroll, bike ride or canoe trip.

Among many historical accommodations, the century-old Partridge Inn is set high on a hill and is close to Augusta's one gay bar. The primary nightspot for gays, the Coliseum, draws an all-ages bunch.

Augusta also has ultra-cruisy gay men's motel-sexplex the Parliament Resort, which has 65 rooms, a pool, cafe, erotica shop and bathhouse facility complete with a dungeon and maze.

In this Old South city on the Savannah River, there is definitely a gay scene — you just have to look a little.

MORE INFO

Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau
706-357-4430 or 800-653-0603
www.visitathensga.com

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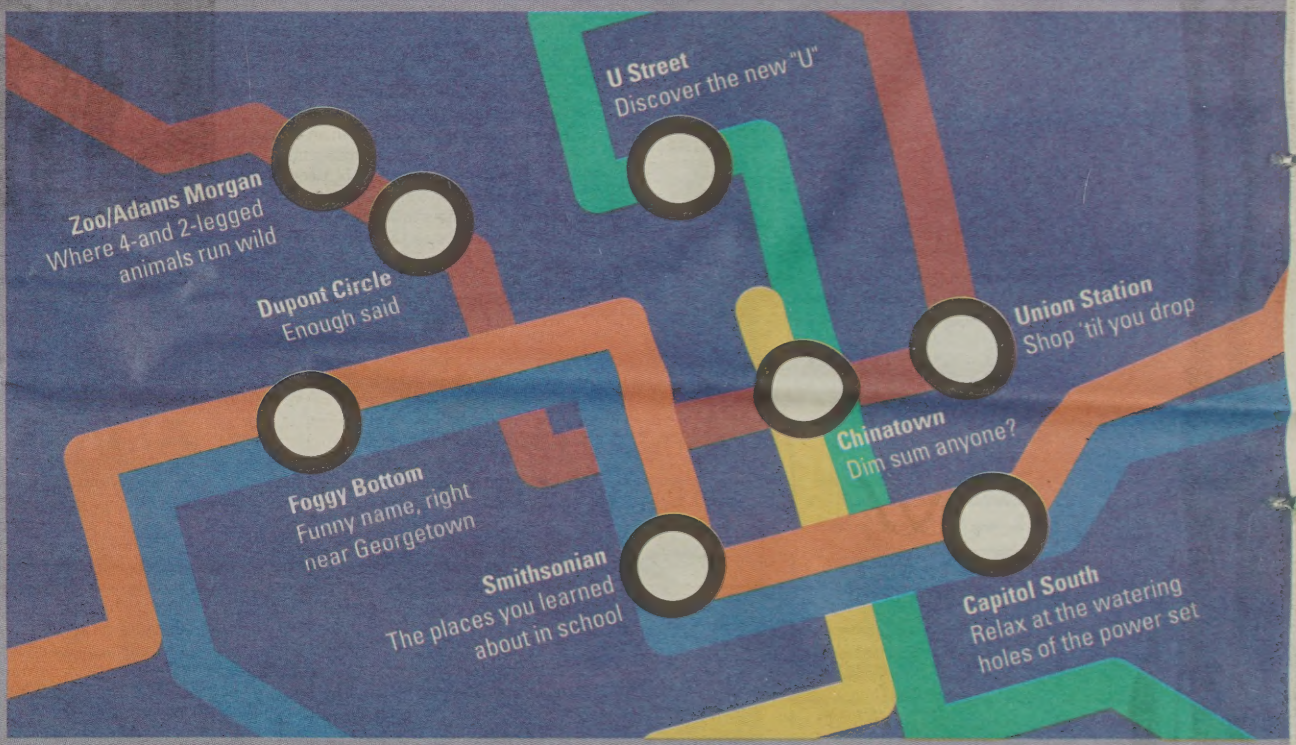

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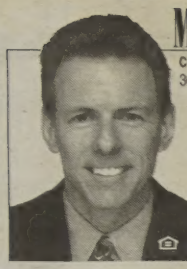

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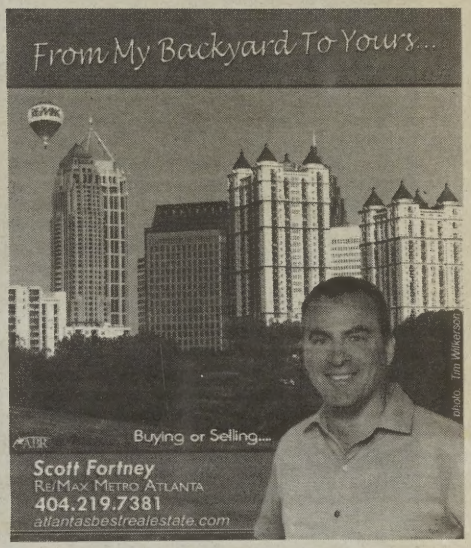

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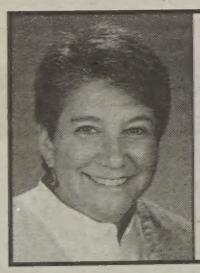

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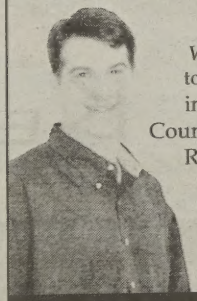

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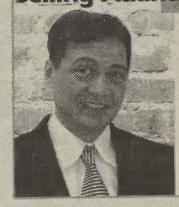

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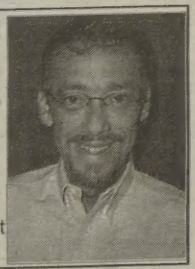

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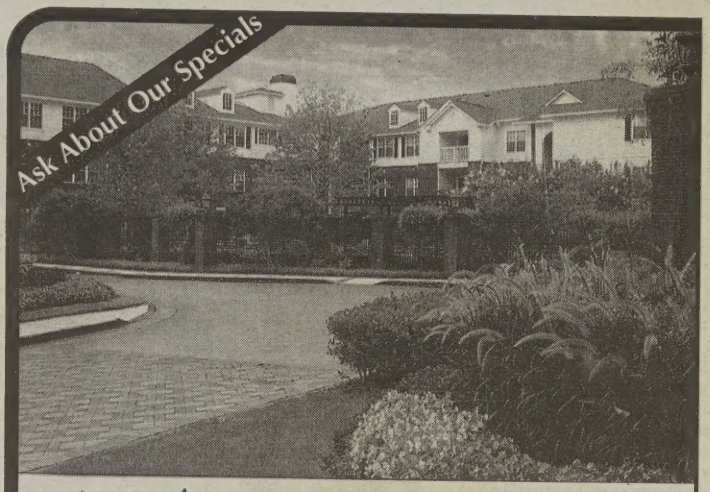

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national news

Houston attorney surprised at 'far-reaching' decision

By PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON — The historic U.S. Supreme Court decision to strike down Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law sent ripples of joy throughout the country, but nowhere was the excitement more palpable than in Houston, where the case originated.

Gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine and others who have worked on Lawrence v. Texas for five years — and on the move to eliminate the Texas sodomy law in political arenas — rejoiced at the news Thursday morning.

"At first, we knew we had won but we didn't know what we had won on," Katine said. "Quite frankly, I could not imagine that the court would actually overrule Bowers v. Hardwick."

The Supreme Court struck down the ban on gay sex Thursday, ruling that the law was an unconstitutional violation of privacy. Gay activists and attorneys had argued that the Texas statute was not only a violation of right to privacy but also a violation of equal protection guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

Gay Houston attorney **Mitchell Katine** (far right), who has helped lead the case of **Tyron Garner** (left) and **John Lawrence**, two Texas men charged under the state's 'homosexual conduct' law, said the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court was more 'far reaching' than he could have imagined.

The ruling reverses Bowers v. Hardwick, the infamous Supreme Court 1986 decision that upheld a Georgia anti-sodomy law.

Katine said gay Houstonians John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, the two men arrested in 1998 in Lawrence's bedroom, originating the challenge to the Texas law, are amazed at the nationwide reaction to the decision.

"They are thrilled. They are excited. They are happy. They understand the significance of this decision on the country," Katine said.

Katine first heard the news from his mother. At 9:12 a.m. CDT on Thursday, as media and fellow attorneys surrounded Katine's desk, awaiting the official decision, the phone rang. It was Katine's mother.

"[She said] 'Congratulations, son — you won!' " Katine said. "I said, 'Mom, that's fantastic.' "

He emphasized the potentially far-reaching effects of the Supreme Court ruling.

"All I'm saying is that what this decision has done is it puts me and my partner on the same grounds as our heterosexual neighbors," Katine said. "We all have the right to privacy in this country. We all have the right to not have the government telling us what we can do and what we can't do in our bedrooms as adults."

On a lighter note, Katine is ready for Saturday's Houston Pride Parade — particular significant this year in light of the Lawrence v. Texas decision.

"I've been telling people let's wait for this decision and then you can go have sex," Katine said with a laugh. "We are now free and we are going to have one hell of a Pride parade. The rally is going to be great.

"Everyone needs to know that every case is important and we all have civil rights that can be protected. We can actually win," Katine said.

The office of Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal represented the state of Texas in the Lawrence and Garner v. Texas case. Rosenthal, who initially argued the case for the state, could not be reached by press time Thursday.

But Rosenthal said last fall that his office was prepared to vigorously defend the Texas law.

"One of the things that we've done is we've sworn to uphold the Constitution of the State of Texas and of the United States, and we're fulfilling our oath," Rosenthal said.

Bill Delmore, the Harris County assistant prosecutor who also worked on the case, in the past has said that the Legislature should throw out the sodomy law if that's what Texans want.

"My concern was primarily that the decision be made in the Legislature so we could protect the people's right through their elected representatives to determine what conduct they believe to be immoral and ought to be against the law," Delmore has said.

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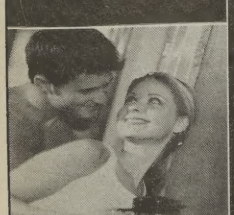

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national news

Scalia: Ruling leaves marriage ban on 'shaky grounds'

NEWS ANALYSIS, continued from Page 21

"intimate conduct," the court concluded, and the government cannot regulate it.

The impact of that ruling could be far-reaching. In his dissent, Justice Scalia cited a number of laws that may collapse in its wake: those prohibiting the sale of sex toys, adultery, fornication, adult incest, public indecency, bigamy, masturbation, bestiality, obscenity and same-sex marriage.

But the majority opinion was not simply a treatise on how individual freedom to engage in sexual acts must not be infringed upon by the government. Although the five-justice majority was not deciding the case based on the fact that the Texas sodomy law was limited to homosexual conduct, Justice Kennedy's opinion dealt directly with how application of the law was used to discriminate against gay men and lesbians.

"When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the state," wrote Justice Kennedy, "that declaration in and of itself is an invitation to subject homosexual persons to discrimination both in the public and in the private spheres."

Four votes against marriage?

Behind the fight over sodomy laws and whether to overrule Bowers v. Hardwick, however, all nine justices were aware that this week's opinions set the stage for a far more cataclysmic clash: the constitutionality of limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

The five-justice majority took pains to make clear that the Lawrence case "does not involve whether the government must give formal recognition to any relationship that homosexual persons seek to enter."

But there is plenty about the reasoning adopted by those five justices that will bear upon the question of same-sex marriage.

"Our laws and tradition afford constitutional protection to personal decisions relating to marriage, procreation, contraception, family relationships, child rearing and education," Justice Kennedy wrote, concluding later in that same paragraph: "Persons in a homosexual relationship may seek autonomy for these purposes, just as heterosexual persons do."

That conclusion represented a marked evolution from the now-discredited view of gay relationships in Bowers v. Hardwick.

Justice O'Connor, in her opinion concurring only in the result reached by Justice Kennedy — and not his underlying reasoning — made expressly clear that marriage will present different issues for the court.

She was prepared to strike down the Texas law for discriminating against gays, she wrote, but that "does not mean that other laws distinguishing between heterosexuals and homosexuals would similarly fail."

"Unlike the moral disap[illegible] sex relations — the asse[illegible] this case — other reaso[illegible] the institution of marria[illegible] mere moral disapproval of an exclu[illegible] group," O'Connor wrote.

In dissent, Justice Scalia argues that the decision in Lawrence "leaves on pretty shaky grounds state laws limiting marriage to opposite sex couples." He wrote that O'Connor may see some basis other than legislating moral disapproval of gays to "preserving the traditional institution of marriage," but that "is just a kinder way of describing the state's moral disapproval of same-sex couples."

Justice Scalia, dissenting along with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas, argues that Bowers was correctly decided and that individual states have a legitimate interest in legislating sexual morality. One advantage of that approach, he argues, is that the elected branches of government "need not carry things to their logical conclusion.

"The people may feel that their disapprobation of homosexual conduct is strong enough to disallow homosexual marriage, but not strong enough to criminalize private homosexual acts — and legislate accordingly."

But the Supreme Court must follow the [illegible]ogic of its previous rulings, Scalia wrote, and that means finding some justification other than "morality" for limiting marriage to heterosexual couples. He rejects the primary justifications mentioned in those cases that have addressed the subject:

"Surely not the encouragement of procreation, since the sterile and the elderly are allowed to marry," he pointed out. "This case 'does not involve' the issue of homosexual marriage only if one entertains the belief that principle and logic have nothing to do with the decisions of this court."

The dissenters are clearly predicting that the decision this week in Lawrence will compel the court to recognize same-sex marriage. Or, at the very least, they are scaring the general public into reaching that conclusion.

For those counting votes on the court, that leaves three justices — Scalia, Thomas and Rehnquist — slamming shut the door on any hope of forcing states to open up marriage to gay couples. And Justice O'Connor appeared to be signaling her vote would be the same.

After Lawrence, five justices have essentially put off the question of gay marriage until another day, but their reasoning certainly leaves open the door. That will undoubtedly increase the scrutiny on the choices President Bush makes to fill any *court vacancies.*

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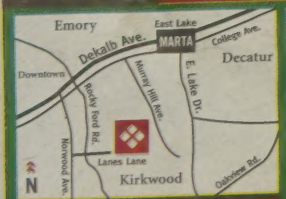

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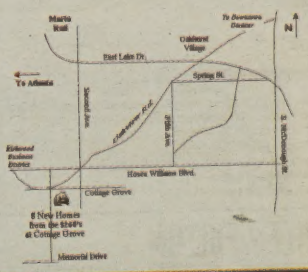

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✔13TH ST Highrise 1 BR, balc, garage, WD. $915/mo.
✔TERRACES AT PEACHTREE (1 Biscayne Dr 30309) 1 BR, 1.5 BA, many upgrades. $995/mo.
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CLASSIFIEDS

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✔2 BR, 2 BA garden prime location! $799/mo.
✔2 BR, 1.5 BA townhouse $909/mo. $300 off 1st mo!!
✔3 BR APTS from $1,099/mo & up. (Midtown/ Buckhead)
✔BUCKHEAD PENTHOUSE HUGE 3 BR, 2 BA, WD, pool, garage, fitness center, concierge, spectacular view! $1,659/mo.
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BUCKHEAD GM ISO GM roommate for very lrg (650 sqft) BR w/ priv BA for rent in 4 BR home. $600/mo incl utils /cable/garage prkg/maid. (404) 728-8707.

CABBAGETOWN Spectacularly renov historic 2/1, photographers home. 12' ceilings, hdwds, fpls, recessed lighting, CAC, WD, shed, OSP, great front porch overlooking 3 acre greenbelt. $1,150/mo. (404) 523-2538.

MIDTOWN (8th St) 2 blks from Piedmont Park. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, 2 story condo, WD, 1 prkg space. $1,050/mo. Avail immediately! (828) 524-9210.

MIDTOWN 2 BR loft. Prime PT St loc, view! Hdwds/tile, glass, brick, pool, exercise room. 24hr security, covered prkg. Avail 8/3. $1,350/mo. (770) 416-9891.

MIDTOWN ATL (13th St, 1/2 blk Piedmont Park) Fully furnished 1 BR on 1st flr, street side, charming porch, high ceils, spacious. Buy furniture for only $950. Take over rent, only $500/mo. Serious inquires only (404) 668-3144.

MIDTOWN RENTALS AVAILABLE:
✔6/13: 894 Monroe Cir, 1,020 sqft, 2/2, $1,150/mo
✔7/15: 857 Monroe Cir, 1,700 sqft, 3/3, $1,800/mo
✔8/1: 557 Seal Pl, 2,000 sqft, 3/2, $2,000/mo
Call (404) 386-0089.

PEACHTREE & 28TH Fab Midtown loc, huge live-work townhome studio, orig 1940s ground flr walk-up, 2 big BRs, sep LR, full-size DR, brand-new kit, vintage tiled bath, plus office/studio w/ outside entrance & full BA, hdwd flrs, max closets, covered prkg, big backyard, $1,499/mo, 1st mo free + SOVO spec - bring this ad & get add $100/mo off. (678) 878-0214 or haking@mindspring.com

PEACHTREE & 28TH Fab Midtown loc, huge townhome, orig 1940s 2nd flr walk-up, 2 big BRs, sep LR, full-size DR, brand-new kit, vintage tiled BA, hdwd flrs, max closets, covered prkg, big backyard, $1,199/mo, 1st mo free + SOVO spec - bring this ad & get add $100/mo off. (678) 878-0214 or haking@mindspring.com

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TOCO HILLS AREA 5 BR, 2.5 BA, pool, hot tub, formal DR & LR, lrg den & game room + pool house. $2,400/mo. Call Kelly (404) 271-3155.

RENT / DEKALB

DECATUR Lrg 1 BR, single occupancy garage apt in priv park like setting. $800/mo incl WD & all utils except phone. Walk to Marta. Prefer long term occupancy. (404) 370-8058.

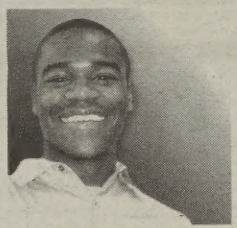
HISTORIC OAKHURST DUPLEX 2/1, CHA, hdwd flrs, garage, laundry, lrg back yard. Next to McCoy Park. Walk to shops, restaurants, art gallery. $800/mo. (770) 380-8123.

HISTORIC STONE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE Brand new, lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Hdwds on main, WD, fpl, microwave, 1-car garage. Pets under 25lbs OK. On Marta. $1,350/mo + dep. (678) 778-9521.

I-85N & I-285 / TUCKER Shr house w/ 2 others. BR w/ priv BA. NS, no drugs. $385/mo incl utils. Avail immediately! (770) 723-0112. Refs required.

LIVE IN HIP CANDLER PARK! Huge 1 BR, 1 BA, sun-filled, top flr condo. Across from park/golf course. Freedom path, walk to Marta & restaurants. Hdwds, WD, no common walls, very quiet. Only $900/mo. Call (404) 663-5661.

NORTHLAKE / BRIARCLIFF 3 BR, 2 BA duplex on 2 acres. 10 mins Midtown. Tile/hdwds, open family/kit. NS/pets. 1 yr. $975/mo. (404) 633-7850.



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FORUM AT DEFOOR CENTRE An intimate, artistic setting for events; 30' ceilings, large performance stage; accommodates 500 standing, 150 seated; 5 mins from Buckhead, Midtown, Downtown. Contact Shelly Crump, Event Sales Manager (404) 591-3903.

RENT / ELSEWHERE

FOR RENT Beautiful 1 BR apt in lesbian's home on water in Mexico Beach, FL. Call (850) 648-8764.

FOREST PARK 2 BR, 1 BA 1200 sqft brick w/ lots of extras. Beautiful wooded lot. $800/mo. $500 dep. Call (770) 388 2301.

SHARE / COBB

VININGS PGM, NS/drugs, ISO similar to shr 3/2 apt home. WD, amenities, overlooking lake, quiet, peaceful surroundings. $525/mo + utils. Call Michael (770) 434-1803.

SHARE / FULTON

COLLEGE PARK Historic District. Walk to MARTA Rail. Luxurious lrg BR w/ priv BA in beautiful restored Victorian home, prkg, cable & all utils incl. Avail furn/unfurn from $450/mo + dep. NS only. (404) 377-8668.

EAST POINT Shr 3 BR home w/ GBM, 40s, smoker; seeks 2 mature/discreet boarders. No party animals/druggies. Live w/ 2 clean gentle Boxers in nice area. $475/mo, shr utils. (404) 376-7106.

EPT GBM, 40s, smoker; seeks 2 mature/discreet boarders. 3 BR home, nice neighborhood. No party animals, no druggies. Deposit, shr utils expenses; live comfortably w/ 2 gentle boxers. $475/mo. (404) 376-7106.

MIDTOWN GM seeks pet friendly roommate for furn or unfurn 1 BR suite in great loft. Patio, city views, roofdeck. $575/mo, 1/2 utils. (404) 733-6094.

SANDY SPRINGS CONDO PGM looking to shr my 2 BR, 2 BA condo. $500/mo + half utils. NS/pets. Call Mark (404) 943-0857.

SHARE / DEKALB

CANDLER PARK Housemate wanted. Shr 3 BR, 2 BA house w/ F & dog. Quiet street, Marta, fenced yard. $375/mo + utils. (404) 522-5623.

DECATUR / COVINGTON HWY 2 BR, priv entrance, kit, BA, WD. 1.3 miles from Kensington MARTA Station. ISO responsible, clean, respectful. $650/mo + utils. Call Marc (404) 288-8337.

DECATUR Prof lesbian looking for roommate to shr house. You must be NS, no drugs, social drinker ok & love animals. $400/mo + 1/2 utils. (404) 288-4595.

GM TO SHARE 3 BR, 2 BA house. Sep BA, WD, pool, hottub. Convenient to I-85, Midtown, VA Highlands, Emory/CDC. Must like pets. $600/mo incl utils. Call (404) 748-4142.

NORTH DRUID HILLS GM to shr 2 BR, 2 BA apt. CATV, WD, steps to Marta. $525/mo utils incl except phone. Call Frankie (404) 633-9926.

SHALLOWFORD / 85 Roommate wanted to shr 2 BR, 2.5 BA TH. $500/mo + half utils. NS, no pets. (678) 530-9344.

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION Southern Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

ARTISTIC INVITES Unique & colorful wedding/commitment invitations for the couple seeking to express their individuality. Please visit my website
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VIDEOGRAPHY For commitment ceremonies & weddings. Call (770) 636-2222 or e-mail videofreelancer@earthlink.net for more info.

LIFE PARTNER COMMITMENT CEREMONIES performed by like-minded minister. Call Reverend Angelia Hall (770) 942-9744. Ask about small ceremony packages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.weddingbellz.com Beautiful Victorian chapel/retreat center, accepting reservations for commitment ceremonies, weddings, renew vows. Overnight accommodations w/ breakfast. Singles, couples, small groups. 30 mins North of Perimeter. Smoke-free adult environment. Call (678) 947-5002. E-mail: Meshad@aol.com

OUR COMMON WELFARE will provide free HIV testing & counseling, testing using oral fluids & urine test; daily 9am-7pm & Sat 9am-1pm.. Located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H; Decatur (next to Dekalb Co jail). Call (404) 296-3090 for de-tails.

ADOPTING? Want to take classes you need w/ others who are, but can't find any specific to the needs of future parents like you ? Come to Solutions For Family Education. We specialize in newborn care, intl toddler care, pediatric CPR & home safety. Call Lori (770) 475-1260 or www.solutionsforfamilyeducation.com.

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by Eric Orner

Mom's Guide To Pride
Peppy!
Lothario.
Very Bright Gals
Wet Blanket.
Pilly.
I mean, what is there to be proud of? An Iraqi quagmire? Wallmart's ruination of American retail? Tax cuts on dividends?
Oh God Another Pride.. Woo Hoo.
Live Wire!
Hoi Polloi
Wealthy Donor's Boyfriend Embezzling
Turf Battling
Hostile
Pride 2003 Committee
Here's Your hat What's your hurry?
Shh! there gaz my Aloids.
Wo! bright out here..
An my crack!
No! Really? Quando? Omygod! No! Es Verdad? No! Yiii! Who told you? With him? No! Really? NO!
Nosy Parker!
Very Creative Boys!

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS Sky Courier, 1 of the nation's largest courier companies, is rapidly growing. We have an immediate need for independent contractors w/ their own insured, late model vehicles to perform pickup & delivery work. All vehicles are needed; drivers w/ covered pick-up trucks & cargo vans are particularly encouraged. Ability to work nights & weekend is a + as well. $600-$1,000 weekly. (770) 441-1884.

HAIR STYLIST BOOTH rental $125. Roswell Alpha area. West of 400 off Holcomb Bridge Rd. (770) 992-5457.

PROFESSIONAL LIMOUSINE CHAUFFEUR Qualifications: Squeaky clean driving record - no DUI, points or criminal arrests, on-time, positive attitude, well groomed, honest & dependable, vehicle clean & stocked, accurate record-keeping/reports, flexible & avail on short notice 7 days. Send resume & letter of interest to: Chauffeur Ad 2003, PO Box 54473, Atlanta GA 30308.

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THE GREATEST GENERATION If you've cared for a loved one, this job's for you. Join the #1 non-medical in-home service for the elderly. Flexible PT day, evening & wkend hrs avail. *Car Required* (770) 392-1070. **Home Instead Senior Care**

POSITIONS WANTED

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THE WEDDING HOUZE Seeks professional sales/coordinators, ministers, photographers. Wkends & holidays reqd. Call (404) 362-2058.

VOLUNTEERS

ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahraatlanta@juno.com.

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TRAVEL / U.S.A.

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FORT LAUDERDALE It's HOTTER THAN EVER down here! www.TheCabanasGuesthouse.com or call (866) 564-7764.

GAR-DEN SUITES BED & BREAKFAST In the center of Motnrose (Houston area). Call Dennis (713) 528-2302.

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Web page: www.guesthouseatlostriver.com

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___ Instruction
___ Local Accomodations
___ Travel International
___ Travel USA
___ Nearby Getaways
___ Travel Tickets
___ Travel Companions
___ Buy/Sell
___ Arts/Antiques
___ Vehicles
___ Sales
___ Pets
___ Publications
___ Mail Order
___ Phone Services
___ Opportunities
___ Financial
___ Legal Services
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___ General Services
___ Funeral
___ Limousines/Drivers
___ Catering
___ Architectural Services
___ Home Improvement
___ Painting/Wallpapering
___ Flooring
___ Electrical
___ Landscaping
___ Cleaning
___ Hauling/Removal
___ Moving
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___ Hypnosis
___ Dating
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___ Body & Soul
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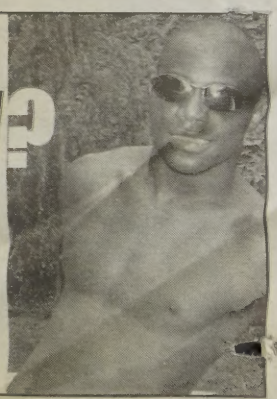

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Good-looking, masculine SBM, 39, bottom, seeks muscular man to share good times, talks and maybe something more. ☎516933

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SM, 19, employed, loving, fun, seeks outgoing, fun, spirited man who enjoys travel, clubbing, dining, movies, camping and life. ☎517353

CALL ON ME
SM, 20, 6'3", who enjoys being with friends, dancing, going to the clubs. Looking for a nice SM, 20-28, for dating. Knoxville ☎519408

COULD IT BE YOU?
Masculine, attractive GBM, 32, 5'11", 200lbs, Gemini, N/S, enjoys music, concerts, symphony, outdoors, baseball, television, cooking. Seeking man, 24-45, to paint the town with. Atlanta ☎429578

A COUCH POTATO, I'M NOT
Divorced BPM, 33, 6'3", 192lbs, shaved head, fit, in tone, Capricorn, N/S, works out, loves to sing. Seeking BM, 28-48, N/S. ☎509937

DOWNTOWN ATLANTA
Intelligent, attractive SBM, 29, 5'9", 160lbs., dreadlocks, Leo, N/S, seeks BM, 18-40, N/S, in shape, attractive, independent. ☎511819

ONE SMART COOKIE
SBM, 36, 5'7", 146lbs, black/brown, medium build, Gemini, N/S, loves studying law and computers. Seeking BM, 30-40, N/S, sincere, honest, trustworthy. ☎513561

BROTHER SEEKS SAME
SBPM, 33, 6'1", 190lbs, mustache, goatee, Virgo, N/S, seeks BPM, 27-39, N/S, for conversation and more. ☎515611

WAITING FOR YOU
GM, 18, Aries, seeks down-to-earth, sensitive, kind, athletic GM, 18-27, who is an all-around good person, for LTR. Belvedere ☎393053

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
GBM, 31, 6'4", 195lbs, brown/brown, goatee, would like to meet God-loving, kind-hearted GM for movies, jazz, dining out, church and more. Atlanta ☎499162

POSITIVE GUY SEEKS SAME
WM, 32, 5'9", 160lbs, brown/blue, HIV+, healthy, genuine, straightforward, realistic, seeks similar masculine type for dating. Serious only, please. Atlanta ☎476521

SINGLE AND LOOKING
GWM, 31, enjoys reading, movies, dining out, travel, sports. Seeking GM, with similar interests, for dating and more. Serious inquiries only. Apo ☎502864

LET'S HANG OUT
SBM, 31, 5'10", brown eyes, 210 lbs, seeks PM to hang out with and get to know! Belvedere ☎481594

LOOKS MUCH YOUNGER!
Attractive, outgoing, humorous, intelligent SBM, 49, seeks attractive, sexy, secure, masculine, easy-going man, 25-50, who is a good conversationalist, funny, intelligent, warm, personable, affectionate, drama-free. Atlanta ☎488663

LOVE, LIVE, LAUGH
SBM, 47, 6'2", 210lbs, is in search of monogamy with a wonderful man, who has a great sense of humor. Lawrenceville ☎376777

COP AND A GENTLEMAN
SBM, 44, 6'1", 216lbs, athletic build, short black/brown (sometimes wears glasses), sincere, caring, easygoing, Taurus, N/S, enjoys cooking, plays. Seeking kind, sensitive, homebody type, 20-42. Macon ☎509684

SHAKE THAT BODY FOR ME
SWM, 54, 5'10", 210lbs, blue eyes, hairy chest, with tan, Libra, N/S, seeks man, 22-65, gym type, smooth body a plus. Douglasville ☎512737

I BRAKE FOR RINKS
SBM, 19, long black/hazel, caramel complexion, Pisces, N/S, enjoys skating and the Underground. Seeking BM, 18-25, N/S, in Atlanta area. ☎515414

LET'S MEET!
SM, 24, in search of a masculine man, 18-35, for friendship or not. Let's talk, see if we hit it off! Smyrna ☎478330

LONELY IN ATLANTA
SWM, 22, 6'2", 165lbs, looking for a sexy guy, 30-45, who would like a long-term relationship. Ballard Gardens ☎481137

LET'S START BY MEETING!
GWM, 22, 6'4", 220lbs, brown/hazel, looking for a male, 21-28, for friendship first. If you're interested, leave me a message! East Cobb Station ☎482842

WHATEVER IT TAKES
SM, 22, looking for a male, 18-24, to go out, party, and have some fun with! Ridgeland ☎483112

ACTIVE IN SPORTS
SM, 21, in search of a muscular male, 18-25, for whatever happens! Give me a call, take a chance! Atlanta ☎493019

MAYBE IT'S YOU
SBM, 32, 5'11", 163lbs, medium build, hardworking laid-back, seeks down-to-earth, easygoing, intelligent, professional SBM, 30-45, HIV-, for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎451573

LET'S MAKE IT WORK!
SM, 34, 5'7", 165lbs, brown/brown, father of two, in search of a male who is ready to settle down. Atlanta ☎407465

LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH
SWM, 26, 6', 200lbs, Capricorn, smoker, seeks man, 21-38, for possible LTR. Big Canoe ☎432407

CORVETTE SUMMER
GWM, bottom, 40, smoker, 5'8", 200lbs, brown/blue, into cars, racing, outdoors, music and dogs. Looking for a top with similar interests and varied. Hairy a plus, but not a requirement. smoke/drink ok. Serious replies only. Woodstock ☎275721

BE MY TEDDY BEAR
SBM, 32, 5'8", 240lbs, with a large build, is interested in meeting a WM, with a husky build, for friendship and more. Norcross ☎446778

TRY ME
Honest, easygoing SM, 30, 5'5", black/hazel, well-built, attractive, seeks outgoing, fun man, to share friendship, good times and possible relationship. ☎414501

ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE...
muscular man, 36, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/brown, psychologist, successful, independent, loyal, romantic, sincere, seeks male, 18-35, to establish a relationship and spend my life with. Atlanta ☎407473

CALL ME
SM, 18, 6'2", brown/blue, enjoys dancing, going out, and hanging out with friends. Looking for a new friend. Atlanta ☎477651

EXTRA WEIGHT? GREAT!
SBM, 47, 6', 200lbs, shaved head, mustache, goatee, husky, Gemini, N/S, seeks stocky, beefy man, 30-75, hirsute a+, top or versatile, for monogamous LTR. ☎462517

SEEKING A SOULMATE
GWM, 45, 5'8", 160lbs, Brown/brown, moustache, HIV+, quite healthy, honest, sincere, enjoys camping, fishing, gardening, quiet times at home. ISO GWM, 40-50, with similar interests. South Metro area. Griffin ☎959082

LOVE AND COMPASSION
SBM, 38, is looking for a best friend, growing into more, with a wonderful man who enjoys walks, talks and more. Atlanta ☎469925

A GOOD LOVER
SWM, 38, 5'11", medium complexion, mustache, versatile, Cancer, smoker, seeks WM, 30-42, with a kind heart. Belvedere ☎465393

SHALL WE?
Bi-racial male, 18, long black/hazel, Aries, N/S, seeks man, 18-25, N/S, Atlanta area, for friendship, fun, and dating. ☎466935

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SBM, 23, 5'11", 170lbs, dark complexion, low hair cut, extremely hairy, loves the outdoors, horseback-riding, fishing, quiet times home, cuddling. Seeking SM, with good morales and a passion for life. Atlanta ☎451386

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235 lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959083

SLIGHTLY ON THE EDGE
SWM, 41, 6'1", 190lbs, diverse, well-traveled, handsome, Gemini, smoker, teaches and trains horses. Seeking similar tall, masculine B/HM, 18-45. Atlanta ☎468020

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎959072

LOOKING 4 HONEST...
sincere, SPM, HIV+, N/S, N/D, who enjoys having a good time. Life is too short not to have one, dining in/out, movies, beaches, bike-riding, walking in the park. Fairburn ☎417828

LOOK ME UP
SM, 22, 5'7", 142lbs, employed, active, seeks open-minded, honest SM, age/race open, to share good times, friendship, maybe more. ☎419631

MASCULINE, DOWN-TO-EARTH
WM, 40, 6', 190lbs, brown/brown, HIV+, healthy, likes the outdoors. Seeking someone similar for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎408321

SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT
SM, 53, 6'2", 230lbs, brown/blue, in search of GM, 30-40, with good looks, for good times together, possible relationship. Grovania ☎406406

GOOD COMPANY
SWM, 22, 6', with dark hair and good looks, seeks a man who is masculine, muscular, for fun times and more. Atlanta ☎370298

DON'T PASS ME BY
GWM, 40, 6', 200lbs, with blue eyes, HIV+, is in search of a special man, for dating, leading to more. Atlanta ☎372443

GOOD CATCH
WM, 50, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/brown, moustache, goatee, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, landscaping, gardening. Hoping to meet a man, 38-53, with similar interests and qualities. Meansville ☎374135

SIMPLE PLEASURES
SWM, 55, loves dining, walks in the park, Broadway shows, bowling, softball games, and travel. Seeking a man to share these pleasures with. Knoxville ☎375986

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎959035

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and red top that you wore so well a the Ansley Kroger Sunday, Jan.15 at 1 p.m. Can't get you out of my mind!! Atlanta ☎117288

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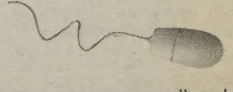

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Spiritual SF, 37, cook, enjoys reading, meditation, quiet times. Seeking like-minded, drama-free lady to share friendship and more. ☎517497

JUST BE HONEST...
for you never know where it will lead you. SWF, 34, Aries, N/S, seeks a true friendship with a BF, 28-43, who enjoys pool. ☎513317

OUTGOING WOMAN
GBF, 18, 5'4", 160lbs, brown/brown, enjoys movies, music, quiet times, outdoors, sports. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎503248

A LOT TO OFFER
GBF, 36, 5'5", 136lbs, brown/hazel, enjoys sports, travel, the arts, reading, movies, the beach. Seeking attractive, outgoing, feminine, down-to-earth GF, with similar interests, for friendship first. Covington ☎503266

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎959098

NO GAME PLAYERS
SBF, 30, 5'5", 165lbs, likes shopping, movies, walks in the park, reading books, romantic dinners. Seeking outgoing SF, 27-37, who knows what she wants. Jonesboro ☎478500

SEEKS FRIENDS
SF, 44, seeks laid-back SF, who enjoys movies, dining, picnics, travel, or quiet times at home. Sound like you? ☎333712

STAY SWEET!
Full-figured SWF, 29, new to Atlanta area, fun, outgoing, straight-forward, down-to-earth, independent, lives alone, seeks SW/BF, for companionship, good conversation, walks, exploring life together. D/D-free. ☎296039

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BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎959099

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SF, 47, looking for a woman, 35-55, for swimming, working out, movies, concerts, and relaxation. Decatur ☎484587

GOOD COMPANY AWAITS YOU
Tall, slender, attractive GBF, with wholesome qualities, seeks the company of a like-minded spirit; somewhat conservative yet adventurous, romantic idealist, who appreciates intellectual stimulation tempered with good humor. Stone Mountain ☎488277

A FULL DECK
Female, 39, Aquarius, employed in communications, enjoys playing cards, movies, and parks. Seeking woman, 38-42. ☎511539

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Attractive, feminine, professional GBF, 39, enjoys concerts, plays, quiet dinners, cuddling, and occasional evenings out on the town. Seeking sincere, loving, butch GWPF with similar interests. Powder Springs ☎959135

ALL GOOD THINGS
SBF, 41, 5'1", with a full figure, is in search of a nice lady who is willing to try anything at least one. Fairfax ☎466801

SPORTY BUT FEMININE
SWPF, 47, teacher, likes hiking, working out, tennis, day trips, beaches, mountains, dining, movies. Looking for a similar woman, 38-60, for friendship, possible more. Mc Donough ☎400353

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Mature, straight-forward GPF, 42, enjoys simple life of quality vs. quantity, seeks same, enjoys good conversation, cultural events, reading, companionship. Friendship first and when it's meant to be, maybe more. ☎288400

SPARE TIME BUDDY
GBF, 34, enjoys movies, reading, dining out, travel, sports, biking. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for companionship and more. Atlanta ☎341420

DRAMA FREE
Hard-working, educated stud, 33, 5', 145lbs, black/brown, D/D-free, two beautiful daughters, dimples, not into games, seeks female to spend some quality time with! Duluth ☎403879

MAKE EACHOTHER LAUGH
SBF, 32, 5'2", 145lbs, Sagittarius, N/S, college student, seeks woman, 24-45, N/S, for friendship, casual dating. Let's seize the moment! East Cobb Station ☎393939

BE MINE
Attractive, feminine, hip GWF, 29, spiritual, adventurous, loves fashion, art. Looking for love outside the box. Memorial Square ☎262497

SHORT AND SEXY
GPF, 34, enjoys movies, music, travel, working out, outdoor activities. Seeking B/HF, 28-40, with similar interests, for friendship first. Stone Mountain ☎250845

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎959061

GREAT CATCH!
GBPF, 24, seeks SF for friendship, possibly more. I am attractive, feminine, active. Seeking stable, D/D-free lady to enjoy life with. Atlanta ☎959126

LET'S TALK
Sincere SPF, 44, tall, blonde, very attractive, H/W proportionate, magnetic smile, enjoys working out, the outdoors, kayaking, beaches, fly fishing, reading, the arts. Seeking open-minded SF,with eclectic interests, for friendship/fun. Winder ☎422660

LOOK HERE
GWPF, 51, sane, solvent, spiritual, attractive, fun, athletic, vegetarian, bad violin player, but working on it, seeks friends first, wanna know more? Your turn. N/S, no drugs, no drama. Pine Lake ☎959132

READY TO SETTLE DOWN
SWPF, 42, looking for intelligent, articulate professional, 30-45, for good friendship first, maybe leading to a committed relationship. I like the outdoors, sports, music, shopping, more. Douglasville ☎278957

A LOT OF QUIET TIME
Soft butch, 42, athletic, seeks feminine, mature, sophisticated, professional woman, 35-55, who's lonely and desires good conversation, dates to the movies, jazz clubs, plays. Athens ☎304005

SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES
Serious GBF, 20, Cancer, N/S, seeks older GBF, 21-33, to fulfill all of my dreams. Atlanta ☎432222

MY QUEST
GWF seeks same. Please be 36-44, fit, attractive, intelligent, spiritual, emotionally available. Let's meet, talk and see where it goes. Tucker ☎424315

WAITING FOR YOU
GHF, 39, Leo, N/S, enjoys movies, seeks honest, faithful, affectionate GWF, 30-48, who likes dogs, and not into drugs, for possible LTR. Moncks Corner ☎393286

SAVE THE DRAMA!
Brown-skinned woman, 45, 5'7", 186lbs, smoker, looking for a special lady, 34-41, race open, to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! ☎317653

SLOW DANCE WITH ME
Feminine GBF, 49, seeks endless romance with aggressive woman, 30+, Let's explore the possibility for LTR and the good life. Are you willing? No fems or bi/curious. Smyrna ☎255276

SEEKING COMRADERY
Feminine GWPF, 32, attractive, fit, enjoys Latin culture, working out, hiking, travel, beaches, shopping, arts, adventure, thought-provoking television/conversation, spending time with my dog. Seeking new friendship with happy individual. Atlanta ☎116721

Just Friends

MY PARTNER AND I...
recently relocated to Atlanta, and are seeking other females with whom to form a friendship, network, social group. Arlington ☎461866

SEEKS FRIENDS
GBF, 42, seeks GF, 35-45, who's professional, spiritual, and feminine, for friendship. No smokers, Bi's, drugs or alcoholics. Stone Mountain ☎422721

WANTED FRIENDS
GWPF, mid-30s, seeks similar, 25-40, for friends. Enjoys arts, travel, outdoors, sports, music of all types. I enjoy watching movies at home and out, good conversations, sincerity. No drugs. ☎258934

WHITE BOTTOM BOY
WM, 20, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/green, bottom, very smooth, fit, athletic, seeks adventurous top, 18-28, who can take charge in the bedroom. Athens ☎408244

Bisexuals

SPECIAL FRIEND
Bi-curious SBF, 29, Capricorn, N/S, loves basketball, football, and picnics. Seeking Bi-curious or BiF, 29-35, N/S, stable. Claremont ☎462011

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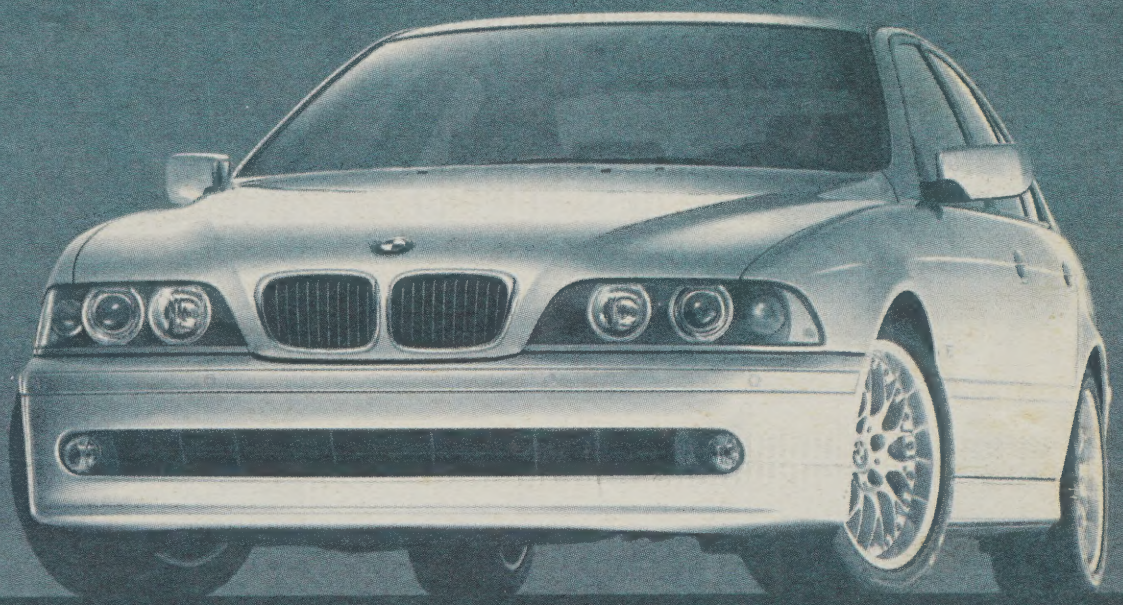

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